The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon as second-class matter.

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Mail (postage prepaid, in advance)—
Daily, with Sunday, per month.....$ 85
Daily, Sunday excepted, per year..... 7 50
Daily, with Sunday, per year..... 9 00
Sunday, per year..... 2 00
The Weekly, per year..... 1 50
The Weekly, 3 months..... 50
To City Subscribers—
Daily, per week, delivered, Sunday excepted.15c
Daily, per week, delivered, Sunday included.20c

POSTAGE RATES.

United States, Canada and Mexico:
10 to 14-page paper.....1c
16 to 28-page paper.....2c
Foreign rates double.

News or discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invariably "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual. Letters relating to advertising, subscription or to any business matter should be addressed simply "The Oregonian."

Eastern Business Office, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49 Tribune building, New York City; 510-11-12 Tribune building, Chicago; the S. C. Beckwith Special Agency, Eastern representative.

For sale in San Francisco by L. E. Lee, Palace Hotel news stand; Goldsmith Bros., 236 Sutter street; F. W. Pitts, 1008 Market street; J. K. Cooper Co., 746 Market street, near the Palace Hotel; Foster & Orear, Ferry news stand; Frank Scott, 80 Ellis street, and N. Wheatley, 813 Mission street.

For sale in Los Angeles by B. F. Gardner, 250 South Spring street, and Oliver & Haines, 305 South Spring street.

For sale in Kansas City, Mo., by Ricksecker Cigar Co., Ninth and Walnut streets.

For sale in Chicago by the P. O. News Co., 217 Dearborn street, and Charles MacDonald, 53 Washington street.

For sale in Omaha by Barkalow Bros., 1612 Farnam street; Megeath Stationery Co., 1308 Farnam street.

For sale in Salt Lake by the Salt Lake News Co., 77 West Second South street.

For sale in Washington, D. C., by the Ebbett House news stand.

For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Kendrick, 906-912 Seventeenth street; Louthan & Jackson Book and Stationery Co., Fifteenth and Lawrence streets; A. Series, Sixteenth and Curtis streets.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain, with southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 52; minimum temperature, 43; precipitation, 0.27 inch.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JAN. 24.

THE REVOLT IN THE HOUSE.

How much sense and sincerity repose in the Democratic party of today may be gathered from the fact that the entire Democratic side joins with Hill and Fowler, extreme gold-standard and banking reform men, to impose upon the Philippine islands, not only the gold standard, but the gold-standard system of the United States, which currency experts are disposed to regard as too advanced for the capacity of the silver-using, cheap-labor countries of Asia.

As to whether the House has done well or ill, opinions must differ, and in any event the approval of any Philippine money system must depend upon experience. The Senate seems already committed to the other plan, favored by Mr. Conant, the Government expert, and by Governor Taft, as well as by the Republican leaders in the House. The weight of authority is with these rather than with Representatives Hill and Fowler and Secretary Shaw, whose genius for constructive statesmanship has never approached their talent for legislative and administrative pyrotechnics.

The approved theory of Asiatic currency is that the entire region from Vladivostok around to Syria must approximate the Japanese and Russian systems—a silver dollar or peso, containing about 416 grains, worth in the neighborhood of 50 cents and maintained at that value by gold reserves and limitation of coinage. In India we have the rupee of a nominal value of 46 cents maintained at 32 cents, or 23 to 1, while the Japanese and Russian ratio is 32 to 1; but the Indian experiment is an experiment only, though successful, and could doubtless be readily modified. For this ratio of 32 to 1 there are seemingly unanswerable arguments. One is the obvious one that it corresponds as nearly as practicable to the commercial ratio. A 50-cent dollar is much more easily to be comprehended among Europeans of gold-standard habit than a 32 1-3-cent dollar, or even a 47-cent dollar. The idea has been that a dollar or peso of 416 grains can be uniformly maintained on the coast of Asia at 50 cents American or 25 pence English without difficulty, and the example of Japan has been regarded as a profitable and likely one for China and the Philippines. The Senate, which long resisted this view in the interests of American silver sentiment, seems at length to have accepted it and the Republican leaders in the House have fallen in. It is without regard to the interests of the islands but wholly from a desire to put the Republican leaders "in a hole," that the Democrats have joined with Hill, Fowler and Shaw to displace this programme, so far as our Asiatic holdings are concerned, with the minority substitute.

And yet there are reasons for preferring the House bill. Chief among them is the hope it holds out of minimizing the danger to our own currency from the stupendous silver burden of our own treasury. With half the world maintaining silver as a token coinage at 32 to 1, the awkwardness of our own silver at 16 to 1, or double its commercial value, would become painfully and increasingly apparent. Possibly it is worth while for us to make an effort to extend the American system to the Philippines, in hope that Europe, which still maintains its silver at 16 or 15½ to 1, with the exception of Russia and Austria-Hungary, may in time come to our aid. The talk of Mexico coming to the gold standard quite naturally strengthens this view. No way has yet been devised for putting the silver coinage of the United States and the Latin Union upon a monetary basis corresponding to its bullion value. The undertaking would be fraught with the gravest political as well as financial peril; and it is not surprising that men incline to welcome the herculean task of extending the present ratio over Asia rather than bring the two ratios into closer contrast and more inextricable confusion.

How this result, obviously aimed at in the House bill, could be reached by the curious and somewhat obscure arrangements provided for it, is not at all clear. Although our coinage laws are extended over the islands, like a blanket, and only United States coins are to be legal tender, there is provision for perpetuation of the present unsatisfactory regime of arbitrary appraisement of Mexican and Spanish silver by the Philippine Commission. It would appear, also, that these coins are to be redeemed, melted up and recoined into a United States Philippine peso of 416 grains or thereabouts, to be receivable at some arbitrary value fixed by the commission. This is a very "limping" arrangement, and seems to us to take far less account of the needs of Philippine commerce than of the predilections of American currency tinkers. It will be strange if the Senate permits this bill to displace its own superior measure.

TWO LUSTY BEGGARS.

Does anybody suppose that American labor, at farm, mill or refinery, will be benefited a picayune by the maintenance of a high tariff on sugar and tobacco coming from the Philippine Islands? Is there any one so ignorant as not to know that the sugar trusts and the tobacco trusts are supreme in these two industries, and that they will pay the producer of raw materials what it pleases them to pay, regardless of the duty or of no duty on the paltry imports from the Philippine Islands?

The Senate has agreed to and it is said that the House will accept free trade in American ports for all Philippine products, with the exception of sugar and tobacco, which must pay hereafter 50 per cent of the Dingley rates. This means for Manila cigars $2 25 a pound and 12½ per cent ad valorem, or about $5 per 100 on 12½-cent cigars; on raw sugar, half a cent a pound, and on refined sugar 1 cent a pound. This is a considerable burden on consumers, and tobacco, of course, must bear the added burden of internal revenue taxation. These taxes are maintained ostensibly for American labor, but in reality for the benefit of the trusts.

How little the sugar and tobacco trusts have to fear from the Philippine Islands appears from the records of trade. Cuba produced last year 630,000 tons of sugar, Hawaii 321,000, the Philippines only 52,000. The paltry product of the archipelago is but a drop in the bucket compared with the large amount now and for many years coming in from Hawaii absolutely free of duty. We imported in the last fiscal year from Cuba 1,099,000,000 pounds of sugar, from Hawaii 504,000,000 pounds, from the Philippines 40,000,000 pounds. In the ten months ending with October we imported from Cuba tobacco and cigars worth $9,000,000; from the Philippines, $20,000 worth. In the same period we imported from Hawaii $20,000,000 worth of sugar, and from the Philippines an amount so small that the Treasury Department makes no record of it.

There is little danger to these two lusty beggars from Philippine imports. Their chief desire is to resist all encroachment upon their preserves, from whatever point of the compass imports are likely to flow in. Perhaps it is just as well for this Philippine tariff bill to single out sugar and tobacco as its sole beneficiaries. It will throw the calcium light on two big trusts. It will interest and possibly instruct the other interests of this country which are selected to support free trade in Philippine imports. Some hitherto credulous souls may be moved to inquire why the sugar and tobacco trusts are so exclusively favored at Washington. Some trusting ones may wonder how long Oxnard shall be permitted to dictate our policy toward Cuba and the Philippines, regardless of the National convictions and desires.

NEW MEXICO'S APPEAL.

The Legislature of New Mexico urges as a feature of its demand for the admission of that territory into the Union that admission was part of the bargain made at the end of the Mexican War and under which California, Arizona and New Mexico became American territory. There is a basis of truth in this appeal, and it comes to this generation as a faint historic echo of times and issues long past. It was, indeed, proposed long before the Civil War to bring New Mexico into the Union, not because the country was ready for it, but as a make-weight in the struggle between the warring forces of freedom and slavery. One or more bills for admission were introduced in Congress and bitterly fought over for a time. Nothing came of it, and when the special and extraneous motive ceased to support it the proposal fell of its own weight.

It is idle now to recall "promises" made with reference to the times and conditions of a generation ago. The idea that we "owe" anything to the New Mexico of 1903 under the treaty of Guadelupe Hidalgo, ratified in 1848, is not worth consideration. The present question is as to the fitness of New Mexico for statehood, and the weight of evidence appears to stand opposed to it.

There is no question about the wealth of the territory, of its resources, of the numbers of its people. But there is a serious question as to the quality of its population—of the fitness of a large proportion of its people for participation in the privileges and duties of American citizenship. We have had a lesson in the folly of bestowing American citizenship in the complete sense upon an unassimilable people in the case of Utah, and it is a folly which we ought not to repeat. It will be time to take New Mexico into the Union when her people shall be able to get along without Spanish interpreters in her courts.

It having been determined that the Panama Company can give title to the Panama Canal, and Colombia having acceded to the terms proposed by the United States, there seems now nothing in the way of going forward with the business of completing the work. In a sense this outcome will be something of a disappointment, for all along there has been an undertone of hope that the Panama project would come to nothing and the Nicaragua project, which the country distinctly prefers, taken up in its place. But, after all, it does not much matter where the canal shall be, provided we get it; and once the work gets well to going, there is bound to be general enthusiasm in it. Preliminaries are sure to take a good deal of time, but the President is no procrastinator and he will wish for many reasons to lose no time. It will be a very natural wish on his part to complete the work within the period of his Presidency, and if he should be re-elected, as now appears inevitable, there will be time enough in which to do it. What effect the canal will have upon Pacific commerce during the period of construction nobody knows, and there are conflicting theories with reference to it, one set of prophets declaring that it will vastly stimulate it, while another holds that it will tend to its demoralization. One thing is certain, namely, that it will create a special demand for such Pacific Coast products as may be required in construction or for the maintenance of the army of men employed in the work. For timber, which can only be supplied by Oregon and Washington, there is certain to be a great demand.

It is out of reason that anybody should question for a moment the propriety and duty of giving Alaska representation by a delegate in Congress; and the wish to deny it is of a piece with the whole course of our treatment of this neglected territory. It is not likely that it would cost the "thirty thousand dollars" which an excited Congressman declares it would to hold an election for delegate; but suppose it should—suppose it should cost twice that sum—is the United States by this circumstance excused from its duty? Nobody in Congress, apparently, has ever known anything about Alaska; at least the treatment of Alaska by Congress has never been suggestive of the least acquaintance with its conditions or needs. It is high time for a new policy—for a policy that shall be based upon knowledge and interest rather than upon ignorance of and irritation with the whole matter. And an important step toward an intelligent policy would be to maintain in attendance upon Congress a representative of the Alaskan population. As a matter of fact, there are two Alaskas, and they are as widely separated as California and Montana. Their interests are wholly different. They ought not to be yoked together, for they have only a name in common. The first step toward an efficient system for the Alaska country should be division of the maritime or Sitka district from the interior or Yukon district, and each should be represented in Congress by a delegate of its choice.

A PITIFUL EXHIBITION.

The argument by which "nine of the largest banks in Seattle and 120 of the leading business houses and manufacturing concerns" of that city seek to brace the King County delegation at Olympia to support of Mr. J. J. Hill's wishes with respect to pending legislation, is an utterance of a very extraordinary kind. Such a confession of abject dependence upon foreign initiative was never before, we believe, made by an American city—nor such an exhibition of subserviency to an absolute corporation master. "Seattle," says this cringing appeal, "is in the midst of a commercial contest of the first importance to her future as a commercial city. . . . Seattle can contribute a very small share in bringing about the desired result, for the contest must be won or lost by the transportation companies." Proceeding further, the appeal declares that—

> James J. Hill is engaged today, single-handed and alone, in fighting the battle to turn the trade of the Orient to the gateway of Puget Sound, and all that we can do and all that he asks us to do in this vital struggle is to give him our sympathy and support. A railroad commission bill at this time would only serve to hamper and trammel him in his efforts to advance our commercial interests. The political sentiment of both parties in King County, as well as the business sentiment, is opposed to a railroad commission at this time, as is evidenced by the fact that no resolution favoring a commission bill was passed by the county convention of either party, and if one had been offered it would have been voted down. Therefore, we would look upon the passage of a railroad commission bill at this time as a blow directed at the best interests of Seattle, and we earnestly urge you, as Representatives of King County, to allow no consideration whatever to swerve you from your unyielding opposition to any railroad commission bill.

Here we have it from her "nine largest banks and 120 leading business houses and manufacturing concerns" that in a crisis of her career Seattle is impotent and must fall back upon her foreign connections for initiative and succor; and for this service she is willing to pay the shameful price of accepting the dictation of a railroad boss in a matter of purely domestic concern, even to the extent of asking her representatives in the Legislature to dishonor the pledge upon which several of them were elected.

What Seattle is forced by the present emergency, under the whip of her master, to declare, all the world has long known to be true. By her inherent strength she is capable of nothing of consequence. Everything she has gained, everything that she is, she owes to conditions and resources outside of herself. For all of her bluster, she does nothing by her own might; for all of her boasted self-dependence, she is and knows herself to be "Jim Hill's town," which he may exalt or humiliate at his pleasure, sure under all circumstances of her weakness and submissiveness.

Occasion has not been lacking in times past when Seattle has sought to cast reproach upon Portland as deficient in the "spirit" which illustrates her own career and character. There is, we are proud to say, a basis for this taunt. Portland has not boasted of her superior "spirit"; she has not sought to slur her neighbors as lacking in energy or character; she has not, in her prosperity, arrayed herself in the pride of a borrowed power or of a pretended dignity. And she has not, in the crises of her career, made traffic in the integrity of her sons in obedience to the arrogance of a railroad master.

Portland flies with her own wings. She owes it to no corporation boss that she is what she is. She trembles before no outside authority. Such service as she gains from railroads she fairly pays for; such promotion as is given to her commercial interests is by her own initiative and of her own might. She has never been forced to the humiliating confession that where her interest is vitally concerned she can "contribute a very small share to bringing about the desired result," that her fight "must be lost or won" under a supine dependence upon outside assistance.

And on the whole we are just as well pleased with Portland's way of doing things, even though it may not make as much noise as the Seattle method—nor such pretension of "spirit."

The Legislature of Pennsylvania is considering a bill to raise the age of boys permitted to work in the coal mines from 14 to 16, and in the breakers from 12 to 14 years. There is also a provision which forbids the employment of girls and women between the hours of 9 P. M. and 7 A. M. This bill is not only a merciful one in a physical sense, but it will have a tendency to adjust conditions in the coal mining regions to the reasonable requirements of labor. Boys, pinched and of retarded physical and mental development, will no longer perform the work of men in the mines and breakers, and women and girls will no longer work over hours or at night in order to eke out their meager pay, if this bill becomes a law. The other side of this question, so far as boys and girls under 16 years of age are concerned, will be shown by the enforcement of the compulsory education law, of which Pennsylvania has a strict and comprehensive one. There is also the consideration that arises from the fact that necessity is behind much of this interdicted labor. If some means could be devised whereby the women and children of the state could be maintained in homes in the good, old-fashioned way, the problem of such labor would be greatly simplified. This being manifestly impossible, all that lawmakers can do is to throw such protection in regard to hours, suitability of work and age around them as is possible without trenching upon parental and personal rights. It is a sad commentary upon humanity that such laws are necessary for the protection of the weak against the avarice or the irresponsibility of the strong. But, being necessary, it is a credit to humanity when such laws are demanded and enacted.

Portland has secured the next meeting of the American Livestock Association, but—What are we going to do with the many hundreds who will be here? The hotel capacity of the city is taxed to its utmost by current business. There is scarcely a day when inquirers are not turned away from the leading hotels and there are few nights when there are beds to spare even in the lodging-houses. We are to have an exposition, too, in 1905—only two years ahead—and by next year we shall begin to feel the pressure of visitors associated in one way or another with this great enterprise. What are we going to do with them? They will belong to the class which demands good accommodations and will be content with nothing else; they will not be pleased if they find cramped and uncomfortable quarters; it will not help our exposition if the story shall get abroad that Portland is not prepared to make visitors comfortable. The situation is really serious. We need more hotel room—and we must have it if the best results to the city and state are to be gained by the exposition. The Legislature has just done its part handsomely; now what is Portland going to do to make the gift of the state effective? The question presses for answer; for, be it remembered, hotels suitable to the requirements of civilized men are not to be created in a day.

While the Legislature is in the act of amending the charter of the Oregon town of Milwaukee, or Milwaukie, would it not be wise to make the spelling of the corporate name agree with the name of the postoffice? The postoffice is Milwaukee, the same as the Wisconsin city after which it was named. Another correction that ought to be made some time when the matter is up is the postoffice or corporate name of The Dalles or Dalles City. The postoffice is The Dalles, which, in speaking, is frequently confused with the dalles of the Columbia River. The corporate name is Dalles City. These variations are not necessarily fatal to the sale of real estate or merchandise, but they are more or less ambiguous and confusing, and they ought to be harmonized. To a mind that thinks with mittens on it doesn't make much difference, but those who value accuracy will recognize the wisdom of getting uniformity and consistency in geographical names.

There is reason in the appeal of the people of Tillamook that harbor work for which plans have been accepted and funds provided shall go forward without further delay. Not only does local commerce feel the need of the work immediately in view, but there are plans for future work to which the pending improvement is preliminary; and it is feared that if this work remains unaccomplished and the money for it in the hands of the engineers, it will stand in the way of further appropriations, which are very much desired. It is nearly a year since the last appropriation became available, and the Tillamookers are not able to understand why the officers in charge do not get at the work.

Oregon potato-growers should take warning from the friendly voice of a California buyer and the poor quality of much of the last year's potato crop and "change their seed." It is useless to expect to keep up the quality of Oregon potatoes when the tubers are planted year after year in the same ground in which they grew. Swapping seed potatoes in a neighborly way would be of some benefit to the crop, but it would be better still to buy potatoes for planting in an outside market.

The policy that brings Utah cattle to the Portland market, while it sends equally good cattle from Portland to be slaughtered at Puget Sound, is not one that contributes to the growth of local industry. If prime Oregon cattle are not worth 5 cents a pound in Portland when they are selling as high as 5½ in Kansas City and Omaha, and 6 cents in Chicago, why are they not? Why are they not worth as much to Portland slaughterers as to the slaughterers of Puget Sound?

A lesson in a school reader of a past generation, illustrative of the statement that "every living thing seems to have been created for the sole purpose of preying upon one another," is recalled in the effort that found expression last night in the meeting of dogowners to consider the proposition of bringing bobwhite and California valley quail to this state "because they are the best birds for field trials."

Many persons used to get incensed with Representative Tongue because he persisted in keeping aloof from the fierce factional fight that has rent the Republican party in Oregon for ten years. Possibly his sudden death furnishes one clew to his moderation. It is unlikely he had no warning of his physical condition. The strenuous life has its perils to hardworking men of scant bodily exercise.

The superstition about the House not being a good stepping-stone to the Senate is not working well these times. Dolliver, Hopkins and Long are examples. McCreary, also, is likely to be elected in Kentucky.

The effectiveness of the Multnomah delegation at Salem is almost if not quite unprecedented. When before did Portland get so much important legislation through in the first two weeks of the session?

Colonel Lynch's conviction is a good revelation of what British justice thinks of the anti. In this country the creature looks around for applause and a laurel wreath.

Redress of Some Sort Demanded.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

There is something radically wrong when the most prosperous nation with the greatest fuel resources finds itself in the condition which the cold wave has placed the United States. With hundreds of thousands, if not millions, in the great cities suffering because coal is unobtainable, except at famine prices, there is an insistent demand for legal or legislative redress. What is imperatively needed is a popular agitation that will compel such action as will prevent a recurrence of the same conditions. No matter what the result of the present arbitration may be to miners and operators, it cannot compensate the people for the suffering now endured.

ELKINS' SPLENDID CHARITY

Philadelphia Ledger.

As a Christmas gift to the Masonic fraternity, William L. Elkins last week announced his intention to establish a home for the orphan daughters of Masons. The gift, which is expected to reach a million dollars, is the largest ever made to any fraternal organization in the world, and the institution which Mr. Elkins proposes to found and endow will be without a parallel anywhere.

The announcement of Mr. Elkins' plan was made by General Louis Wagner, a past grand master of Pennsylvania. The occasion was the annual dinner to the residents of the home, and General Wagner presided at the meeting, which was held in the chapel, where he read the following letter:

"Philadelphia, Dec. 23, 1902.—My Dear General Wagner: It has been in my mind for a long time to provide a home for the orphan girls of Masons. In order to carry out the object, I have set apart a piece of ground which I own on the northeast corner of Broad and Bristol streets, and have had plans prepared, which I send you herewith. I had hoped to have the matter fully consummated before this time, but have been unavoidably delayed. However, I cannot let this Christmas season go by without taking such decisive action as is in my power to assure the carrying out of this intention. I have, therefore, written you this letter and send you the plans, and authorize you to make the announcement that the lot has been given and the funds provided to erect the proposed buildings. As soon as I am able to attend to the matter I will make the proper arrangements and arrange the details. Very truly yours, William L. Elkins."

After reading Mr. Elkins' letter, General Wagner presented the plans for the institution, which have been prepared by Horace Trumbauer. They provide for a central administration building three stories high, with dormitories to the north and south connected by wings with the administration building. In the main building will be the offices, class rooms, libraries, a hall with a large stage and rooms for teachers. The dormitories will be fitted up for the accommodation of 100 girls, and the plans are so drawn as to permit of an enlargement at any time without interference with the architectural scheme.

The lot given is bounded by Broad, Bristol and Cayuga streets, and York road, with a Broad-street frontage of 250 feet and a depth of 489 feet. Its eastern front looks out on Hunting Park. The contractors will begin work by April 1, 1903.

It is understood that to General Wagner is due the credit of inducing Mr. Elkins to make the munificent gift. Mr. Elkins was so much impressed with what he saw at the Masonic home last year that he said that he would like to do something for the fraternity. General Wagner, who is a trustee of Girard College, told Mr. Elkins that orphan boys were better taken care of in this city at present than orphan girls, and that he could not do anything better for the Masonic fraternity than provide a home for orphan daughters of Masons. Mr. Elkins accepted the suggestion at once and said he would found an institution which would be a credit to the city as well as to the Masonic fraternity.

In New York 250 Years Ago.

New York Evening Post.

Lots near the present Hanover square street was known (though why is not apparent) as "the street of the graft." Mulberry street was not known then. A day of prayer was set apart on account of the prevailing fevers and also because "of the rise of a people called Quakers." Partridges were shot near Bowling Green. C. Jansen, having a lease near the Bowery, offered to give it up because "he had to ride two miles through a dense forest." The rent of a hatter's residence in Bridge street was 36 guilders, six beaver skins, and two fine hats. English pirates were "very annoying to the city's shipping." There was no tapping (liquor selling) after the curfew toll at 9 o'clock at night. Negro slaves were brought here by slave ships. A good slave was valued at $280. All Jews were ordered out of the city. Burgomasters received a salary of $140 a year. It was customary to have a poor box at weddings. Pumpkins and watermelons were common in the city. It was customary to examine by torture any man accused of theft. A man convicted of stealing cabbage from a neighbor was sentenced to stand in the pillory with cabbages on his head and to be banished for five years. Buildings were mostly of wood, and some were thatched with reeds.

Platt Will Not Sue.

New York Evening Post.

We are asked if we are not afraid that Platt will sue the Evening Post for libel. Our reply is (1) that we have uttered no libel on Platt, and (2) that he never sues for libel. The Tribune challenged him to do so in its case, but its gage was not picked up by the boss. A year ago, it is true, there were violent assertions that Platt was going to sue McClure's Magazine. The article on him by W. A. White, which it published, was such an irreverent and plain-spoken handling of his public career that the outraged Senator felt it to be his duty, etc., to show reckless editors, etc., that there were limits beyond which, etc. So Platt in his personal organ. But the suit was not brought. Perhaps Platt got an inkling of the eagerness of the lawyers on the other side to have him take the matter into court, and of the array of awkward evidence with which they were ready to confront him. At any rate, after some weeks of bluster, the Faithful One, the Sun, announced on January 3, 1902, that Senator Platt had "decided not to sue McClure's." This shows us how well he deserves his name, the Easy Boss. He is perfectly at ease under charges which, if true, ought to drive him from public life.

No Mercy for the Merciless.

Chicago News.

What do the coal operators think is going to be the effect of all this? That there have been extortionate practices in the coal business and that some of the Eastern operators, in particular, have deliberately undertaken to withhold a necessity of life for the purpose of profit-making is hardly to be doubted. The operators have opposed the enforcement of laws which would interfere with their misuse of their extraordinary powers over both mines and railroads. They will not brook the suggestion that they be placed under further restraint, no matter how reasonable. How long can they expect this state of things to continue? "If in another Winter," said Judge Grosscup in his address at the Hamilton Club dinner Saturday night, "a situation such as exists now with regard to coal should prevail nothing could prevent an irresistible sentiment spreading over this state for the public ownership of the bituminous coal fields." Who will have been responsible for this revolutionary change—who but the men who created the conditions that forced the people to demand it as a measure of self-protection?

A Russian "Tribute."

Utica Press.

Imitation is the tribute that mediocrity pays the genius. It is announced that Russian merchants and a syndicate of Chinese dealers have agreed that Russian cotton cloths for the Chinese trade shall be made in imitation of American cottons and passed off as American goods. They propose even to imitate our brands on sheetings, drills and other cloths. The Russian manufacturers will probably derive some advantage by this proceeding, but it will be likely to prove disastrous in the end.

May Teach a Useful Lesson.

Minneapolis Journal.

The coal famine has proved that to draw National lines across the coal trade is to work a grievous wrong to the people of both countries. It will probably give us reciprocity in coal, and it may serve as a reminder that reciprocity in other articles is as reasonable and desirable as reciprocity in coal.

"ILL FARES THE LAND."

New York Times.

In the course of the recent rather rambling talk in the Senate on the general subject of "trusts," several of the speakers have adorned their remarks with the familiar lines of the "Deserted Village":

Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.

It is the apparent opinion of some of the gentlemen who legislate for the Republic in return for a salary that their grandfathers would have regarded as the revenue of a Prince that these lines describe the fate that awaits America if something is not promptly done to check the process of accumulation on the one hand and decay on the other. We cannot agree with them. In the first place, the writer of the poem in which the lines occur is not recognized as an authority of the first class in economics or even in the less practical branch of thought, political philosophy. Poor Oliver Goldsmith had a wealth of imagination, an almost faultless taste, a happy faculty of getting himself beloved, and a hopeless incapacity to make both ends meet or to see clearly the connection between promise and payment. Neither his studies nor his personal experiences fitted him for the development of economic theories, and when he penned the swelling lines that roll so impressively from Senatorial lips he really had nothing more definite in mind than to deplore, in marketable rhyme, the decay of the English peasantry. This is evident from the remaining lines of the passage:

Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade—
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroy'd, can never be supplied.

Possibly even the careless Irishman would have perceived that the first couplet, standing by itself, was absurd, while it was neat enough as the prelude to the sentiment he wished to express as to the peasants who formerly dwelt in the "deserted village." Except in poetry, it is not permitted to say that wealth can accumulate and men, who are the sole makers of wealth, decay. The two things cannot go on at the same time. Wealth is but the product of men's activity applied to natugal resources, and when the activity ceases or declines the product tends to dwindle. For a short time, it is conceivable, the wealth of a few might increase while the vigor and the comfort of the many should lessen, but it could not last long. On the other hand, nothing is more sure than the steady and continuous creation of wealth by a strong, growing, active people—of which fact the Senators to the contrary notwithstanding, our own land is a striking proof.

The Former Sons of Calamity.

New York Sun.

One by one, the sons of calamity get tangled up with the octopus and let the prosperity bacillus undermine their heroic principles. The Hon. Jacob Coxey, of the irregular army, O., has been a man of corporations and a bloated bondholder for years. Hogg, Towne and Bryan are plethoric of purse. And here is our old Greenbacker and Populist friend, General James B. Weaver, of Iowa, a statesman whose apparently invincible disbelief in the hunt for happiness has long kept alive our interest in his fortunes. Alas, he, too, is fallen. According to an esteemed Iowa contemporary, he has gone to Sour Lake, Tex., as president of an oil company. Sour Lake has a name congenial to the old Weaver, but we fear that the new Weaver is destined to be an optimist and perhaps a millionaire.

State Restraint on Loan Sharks.

Atlanta Constitution.

The approaching session of the South Carolina Legislature is to witness a concerted effort on the part of employers of laborers, especially in factories, to secure the passage of a drastic law for the punishment of those who commit the iniquities that now accompany the system of short salary loans. That public opinion has been revolted by the sad stories of extortion told by the victims of the loan sharks is a good sign of altruistic conscience coming to the rescue of a bad situation. And that situation is not confined to South Carolina cities, but is widespread throughout the Union.

Great Britain and Germany.

Contemporary Review.

Germany can never be our friend. Economically, because she has the same aims as we have, and is propelled forward by the same economic motor forces; politically, because of her position between France and Russia; psychologically, because the German people are by nature envious, hostile to England, and tend to become more so. The Pan-Germanic idea, as yet in its infancy, is no idle chimera. Could Germany crush us she would. We must meet her with her own weapons, which are these: Brains, science, thoroughness. Above all, our fleet must be invincible.

Colored Officers in the Army.

Washington Post.

Our colored friends are now insisting that they are entitled to commissions in the Army. We do not wonder. The argument is unanswerable. If they are fit to be collectors at big ports like Charleston and assistant district attorneys in great cities like Boston, why should they not be officers in the Army, or, for that matter, in the Navy also? With this proposition they are now attacking the President, the Secretary of War, the Adjutant-General, Mr. Hull, the chairman of the House military committee, and heaven knows how many more besides.

Cause of Municipal Corruption.

St. Louis Republic.

Responsibility for municipal corruption rests in a majority of cases with the public. Now and then an honest man becomes dishonest after election, but as a rule voters know candidates well enough to cast their ballots intelligently. The characters, propensities and affiliations of candidates usually are open for general review. Seldom, too, is wrongdoing concealed. Almost by intuition the public gauges motives back of the acts of its servants. The public is rarely deceived for a considerable length of time.

Led in a Praiseworthy Reform.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Wisconsin was the first state in the Nation to give married women the absolute control over their own property. Fifty-five years ago, when this radical change was incorporated in our constitution, it was thought by many to be a dangerous and extreme reform, and yet that grand step has since been followed by nearly every state in the Union, and no one now says it was a premature and unwise law.

A Discord in Two Flats.

Charles Buxton Going in February Smart Set.

"Oh, mother most dear, what wild noise do I hear?
Oh, haste—I am deadly afraid!
For it sounds like the yell of a howitzer shell
And the charge of a mounted brigade,
Or the curses that swell from the demons in ——
As their victims are roasted and flayed!"
"Peace, child; 'tis the tread in the flat overhead,
And the voice of the new Irish maid."

"Oh, mother, the wall—see, it threatens to fall!
It shakes like the leaf ere 'tis shed!
And the floors—how they sway! 'Tis the wrath of Pelee—
A blast from the Isle of the Dead!
'Tis the great Judgment day—so, be near me, I pray,
For the ceiling comes down on my head!"
"Peace, child; they but move in the flat up above,
And let down their new folding-bed."

"Oh, mother! that wail, like the ghost in the gale—
A ghost that is famished and blind!
How it keens and it cries! How it shivers and dies
And gabbles and shrieks in the wind!
'Tis the banshee that cries, and I fear my demise—"
But the mother had leaped like a hind,
For that janitor's call to the tube in the hall,
It behooved her most humbly to mind!

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Well, the agony is almost over at Olympia, anyway.

Russell Sage has got a valet, but what the valet gets we have yet to learn.

Emperor William is going to have a newspaper to voice his views. It'll be a busy sheet.

Oregon is to have two new regiments of 12 companies each. Now will Kaiser Bill be good?

The school teachers of Kansas are going to organize a union, and now we suppose there will be a wisdom trust.

William J. Bryan is now making speeches in Texas, and those Beaumont gushers doubtless regard him with interest.

If we don't get another bunch of stars in the flag it will not be through any inactivity on the part of United States Senator Quay.

Germany has been doing a whole lot of shooting in Venezuela, but she was careful to pick out a town where President Castro doesn't reside.

The special New Year's number of the Seattle Bulletin is a most attractive publication, and its makers have reason to be proud of their first effort in this line.

It wasn't until President Roosevelt returned to Washington and more than 1000 miles of space separted them that the editors of the Democratic newspapers in Mississippi began to call him names.

A woman was convicted of larceny at Jingo, Mo., recently by wearing a stolen hat to church. She might have known that would be the one place of all others where all the other women would detect her.

The papers are publishing numerous directions telling people how to save coal. Now, if some one will supplement this advice with trustworthy information as to how to get coal a long-felt want will be filled.

In Joplin the telephone girls went out on a strike, their chief grievance being that the superintendent called them pet names.—Kansas City Star.

What we call 'em in Portland, occasionally, has kept us from having any such difficulty up to date.

This thing of gunning for editors is becoming altogether too fashionable. Some of these days the editors will forget that the pen is a heftier weapon than those handled by the men who come after them and will lay hold on something with more material weight.

In his article on the co-operative town of Greeley, Colo., in Harper's Magazine for February, Professor Richard T. Ely comments on the differing social conditions in the East and West:

"The farther West one goes, the more democratic becomes society," says Professor Ely. "I must confess that I did not understand true Americanism, in one of its phases at least, until I got far away from the Atlantic Coast. Coming to Madison, Wis., from Baltimore, Md., the freedom of intercourse between all economic classes and men of the widest divergence of wealth and intellect attracted my attention; but there are social differences even in Madison which would be scorned in a place like Greeley. Anything like aristocracy seems to be absolutely unknown in Greeley, unless it is the aristocracy of personal merit."

To illustrate how far wrong one may go in trying to estimate the goods and ills in another man's life, a speaker at a recent public dinner told this story. Two men met at a college reunion after 25 years. They had been close friends in the old days, but had lost sight of each other since.

"Well, Bill?"

"Well, Charley?"

"Tell me about yourself. Where have you been and what have you done? What has your life been all this quarter of a century?"

"Well, Charley," said Bill, reflectively and somewhat sadly, "I'm about where I was when I started out 25 years ago."

"That so?"

"Yes, just about in the same place."

"But something must have happened to you."

"Yes, I've been married."

"That's good."

"Well, I don't know. She turned out to be a terrible shrew."

"That's bad."

"Well, I don't know. There was one compensation; she was rich."

"That's good."

"Well, I don't know. She was also stingy."

"That's bad."

"Well, I'm not so sure. She was always just."

"That's good."

"Well, yes, I suppose so. But she died."

"That's bad."

"Well, I don't know. She left a great deal of money."

"Of course. That was—well, money is an—advantage."

"Yes, it certainly is; but she didn't leave me any."

"That's bad."

"Well, it might have been worse. She left me a fine house."

"That's good."

"Yes, that was good—while it lasted, but the house burned."

"That's too bad."

"Yes, that was bad. It wasn't insured, either. So I'm just where I was when I started."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

She—Dear, you have crushed and almost suffocated me. What kind of a hug do you call that? He—That's a Metropolitan Street Railway hug.—Life.

"What makes Cholly so stuck up?" "He has been sued for breach of promise, and the damage is set at $25,000. Cholly never imagined he was so valuable."—Puck.

"Look at the crowd of women going into Mrs Gabbie's house. What's the attraction?" "Detraction. The sewing circle meets there today."—Philadelphia Press.

"Yes, I know him slightly. He always impresses me as being rather a hard man." "Hard? Say, that man can dull a knife by just carrying it in his pocket!"—Chicago Tribune.

"Queer people this," said the rural editor. "In what way?" "Well, I merely advised them to give the new Mayor plenty of rope, and—bless my soul—they lynched him!"—Atlanta Constitution.

"Don't the trusts cause you any uneasiness?" "Not the slightest," answered Senator Sorghum. "I see no reason to apprehend that they will not go on paying salaries and dividends as usual."—Washington Star.

"Young man," said the pompous individual, "I did not always have this carriage. When I first started in life I had to walk." "You were lucky," chuckled the youth. "When I first started in life I couldn't walk."—Chicago Daily News.

"This fishin' fever seems to be contagious," said the stranger, noting the long row of anglers perched upon the creek bank. "Yes, it's contagious, all right," said the man who had been fishing four hours without a nibble, "but not ketchin'."—Baltimore American.