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TODAY'S WEATHER-Generally fair; north YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum ten

perature, 49; minimum temperature, 41; pre-cipitation, 0.06 inch.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11.

JUSTIFICATION OF WATERWAYS.

The portage railroad around the dalles of the Columbia is not conceived in any quarter as a permanent solution of the difficulty there; it is but a temporary expedient, designed to afford relief to shippers until the Federal Government does its duty with the canal and locks. But there is no more important factor

in the development and prosperity of a country like ours than the perfection of waterways. This thing is well understood in Europe, where harbors have been made and canals constructed, to the tremendous cheapening of transportation charges. It was once understood in this country as the Erie Canal and Sault Ste. Marie, with their revolutionary effect on commerce, bear witness. But the growth of railroad power has operated to the delay of the Nicaragua Canal, the abandonment of some domes-tic canals and the decline of others, and opposition to some of the most promising waterway undertakings on the con-

The farmers of the Columbia Basin compete in the markets of the world with the poorest-paid labor of Asia and South America. They can continue to do this, only upon condition that they are permitted to get the benefit of their brains. Their brains and the brains of their fellow-laborers in the United States give them labor-saving machinery and cheap transportation. But they will get the full measure of their resources only if the carriage to tidewater given the benefit of improved waterways. An open Columbia River is the principal element in the local transportation problem. As long as the dalle are closed to navigation our farmers are subjected to cruel hardship.

Those who care to pursue the interest ing subject of waterways and their effect on cost of transportation will find an excellent discussion of it in the January Forum by Mr. Lewis M. Haupt, the well-known engineer. What he shows concerning the Erie and Sault Ste. Marie canals can be effectively applied to the project of opening the Columbia. These undertakings are in line with the soundest public policy, and their neglect would be arrant injustice to those who support the Government through customs and interna revenue. And these investments in the end yield many times their cost, by virtue of the benefits conferred through cheap carriage.

SHRINKAGE OF SALT LAKE.

Great Salt Lake is subject to remark ble alternations of rise and fall in the level of its waters. The level now is wer by more than three feet than ever ore known, since observation began to make a record. A periodicity is observed in the rise and fall, but there has not been sufficient length of time since the observation began to justify the formation of an opinion as to the regularity of the movement. Apparent ly the rise and fall depend much, but not wholly, on variations of the amount of precipitation. From 1847 to 1886 the surface of the lake was rising. Since 1886 it has fallen 11 feet 7 inches. De crease of precipitation during the sixteen years since 1886, and continual increase of the use of water for irrigation are the apparent causes. For the period since 1886 the deficiency of precipitation. as compared with the cycle preceding that year, has been nearly two inche per annum, or 29.60 inches during the space of sixteen years. The loss from irrigation is difficult to estimate, since much of the water thus used finds its way back, either directly or by conversion through exhalation and vapor, into new precipitation.

Mr. L. H. Murdoch, Section Di sector of the United States Weather Bureau, in an article in the National Geographical Magazine, writes that the present area of the is about 1750 square miles. The drainage basin in which it lies is about twenty times that area. Within this basin the average annual precipitation is about fourteen inches. Evaporation from the surface of the lake is estimated at five feet per annum. Unques tionably the lake will continue to shrink if there be no increase of precipitation, and it will dry up, ultimately. But it is probable another wet cycle will begin at no distant time-though no one can foretell it, or give a reason why. The order of which the Aztec city stood when Cortez invaded the country-then no inconsiderable body of water-has now almost disappeared. What is left of it is merely a miry salt marsh. Such may be the fate of Great Salt Lake. At one time it was, as geologists believe, a lake far exceeding its size in recent times. It probably had an outlet through | and in 1878. The Sultan may dodge his

Snake River into the Columbia. If so it was a vast body of fresh water, which began to be salt only when by deficiency of precipitation or other cause it became a closed lake.

ELIOT ON POPULATION.

President Eliot's strictures on excess in athletics and his opinion that postgraduate studies conduce to cellbacy may be unreservedly indorsed; but when he deplores the small families or no families of the highly cultivated as a thing to be reprimanded if not indeed extirpated, he gives himself bootless concern about something for which there is no help and something which is probably on the whole the best arrangement possible. Agitation is undesirable in a Harvard man, anyway, and the course of Nature is something it is rarely profitable to seek to interfere with.

The fertility of the human race is in inverse ratio to culture, possibly to intelligence. This is a universal law. It applies to modern London or Boston as much as to the ancient world-to Germany as well as France. It forms a part of the general system by which Nature prevents overcrowding of the race. Every stage of human development has its peculiar checks on popula What starvation and massacre achieve in savagery, the love of ease and the pride of luxury afford to the cultivated. It is unnecessary to expatiate upon the reasons why devotees of literature, art and fashion content themselves with small families, or with no children at all, or even without marriage. They are familiar to all; and they are not amenable to reason. These matters are no more referable to public policy or religious mandates than love is to the locksmith. Accept them, there fore, without protest or alarm. There is no great loss. The highly

cultivated are not necessarily more fitted for perpetuation of the race than are the children of the soil. We require many things for offense and defense of organized society, in advance of polse and intonation. The highly cultivated are not the best soldiers, builders or traders. They are not the most desirable parents, either, in many ways, Their children are likely to be without the struggle which in early life or not at all gives strength for the supreme battles. Inheritance can give the child strong body and to some extent a moral intensity, but it is one of the plainest and most pathetic facts of human experience that intellectual power cannot be transmitted. The greatest of earth left no descendants. The family of Shakespeare has perished from among the living and Napoleon's only child died a weakling at 21. So of Milton, so of Cromwell, so of Washington. The children of the great as a rule belong to hopeless mediocrity. Many of them are imbecile, many are victous and deprayed, many of them are crushed by the weight of their name and expectations, or seduced by the indulgence which power puts within their reach. And it is better so. If the superior circumstanced in life perpetuated themselves as prosperously as the poor, the result would be an aristocracy of brains and accomplishments which would do away with the healthy ferment of society and prevent the present accession to power of sons of the soil. The ruling classes would be impregnable and Markham's man with the hoe would be a reality instead of a libel. How long would this continent resist the encroachments of Europe if it were peopled with Charles Ellot Nortons and Edward Atkinsons? How long would the world have looked in vain for escape from

IMPENDING WAR IN THE BALKANS. If Turkey refuses reform of political and civil abuses in Macedonia upon the present advice of Russia and Austria, general revolt on the part of that province is inevitable. In that event Bulgaria will make common cause with the Macedonian revolutionists and Servia will not long stand aloof after the fighting once begins. Turkey, by her mobilization of 250,000 men, shows that she anticipates trouble in the Spring. Rus sian troops are massing along the Roumanian frontier, and Austria is pouring troops into Bosnia. There is no doubt about the reality of the Sultan's atrocious misgovernment of Macedonia which is so gross that it has aroused both the Christian and Ottoman populations to revolt against the misrule of the corrupt governing class. There is no doubt about the right of Russia and Austria to enforce the pledges of the treaty of Berlin regarding the reform of political abuses in Macedonia. Under that treaty the enforcement of these pledges is the promised duty also of Great Britain, France and Germany,

kingly tyranny if it had waited for the

devotees of philosophy and fashion to

If the Sultan refuses the proposed reforms, which include the appointment of a Christian Governor of Macedonia with practically full powers, and war takes place, of course the united millstrength of Russia and Austria would soon drive the Turk out of Europe. Then what? Would Germany and Great Britain think it worth while to interfere and save the Sultan's "face" as the powers of Europe did in 1878, when the victorious Russians stood before the gates of Constantinople? Great Britain would not care to interfere, and would be content with full sovereignty in Egypt and the Nile Valley. Germany and France would naturally make for a share in the Turk's spoliation. Italy, of course, would grow petulant over the aggrandizement of Austria, but would be powerless unless backed by Ger-What would Germany Russia and Austria by joint military advance pushed the Turk out of Europe and occupied Constantinople?

The chances are that Germany would do nothing, because France is the ally of Russia, and the superior naval strength of France would make interference by Germany only effective by land. Such interference would mean a gigantic war with Russia on the part of Germany, but such a war Germany could not afford with her Western face open to direct attack from France. The mere question of a share in the spoliation of the Turk or division of Asia Minor would not be worth the risk and cost of a great war between Germany and Russia. Germany cannot afford it, as Russia has France for an ally, and Germany, despite the Venezuela incident has managed to incur the ill-will of England. Emperor William does not care to pay the enormous price of a Continental war. If the Sultan was driven out of Europe he would probably pitch his throne in Damascus and ac cept whatever dignity his conquerors

might award him. The powers of Europe saved his throne from Mehemet All in 1839; they maved him from Russia in 1829, in 1854

fate again by suddenly yielding at the last, or the mediation of Germany may obtain for him another lease of life. But his day of departure from Europe ought not to be very far distant. His presence is a political and religious anachronism; he owes everybody and he pays nobody save in promises, so it is about time to treat him as a dead body politic and proceed to administer upon his estate, personal and landed property. With the Turk expelled from Europe, Asia Minor would become the residence of the Sultan. The construction of the Bagdad Rallway, with the terminus on the Persian Gulf, which German capital hopes to build, would be a serious detriment to British interests, so Great Britain would probably not be sorry to see Russian success frustrate this enterprise. It is true that Russia wants to build a line through Persia to the Indian Ocean, while it is part of the British policy to connect Europe with India by a railway system, and England has been anxious to reach an agreement with Russia in regard to Persia, but England has probably reached the common sense conclusion that she cannot expect to obtain and retain everything while conceding nothing. She cannot circumvent both Germany and Russia and she is safer against the rivalry of Russia between Bombay and Bagdad than she would be against that of Ger-

many. Great Britain has already declared her purpose to extend her Indian road to the eastern boundary of Beloochistan, and thence through Persia to the Gulf. What both England and Russia want is to obtain from Turkey Kowelt, at the northern extremity of the Persian Gulf, the terminus of the projected Persian Railway. If Turkey was pushed out of Europe, perhaps a British fleet might seize it. It is clear that Germany is more interested in Asia Minor through the Bagdad Rallway than in any quarter of the globe, and the interests of England and Russia are only second to those of Germany. How far these considerations would serve to prevent war with the Sultan and his ultimate expulsion from Europe it is not easy to decide. Propositions for the abatement of the Sultan as a political evil are always met like propositions for the extirpation of the social evil, viz., that because it cannot be cured it must needs be endured.

WHAT IS ARID LAND? It would seem that the difference be tween timber land and arid land ought to be enough to prevent such a mistake as appears to have been made in the Walker Basin, near the headwaters of the Deschutes. The Oregon Development Company selected 68,000 acres of land there to be reclaimed under the Carey act. The state appointed an engineer to examine the land and the project for its reclamation; and upon his report the contract for the work was signed and the whole matter passed up to the Secretary of the Interior, whose approval would set the whole enterprise on its feet. But Secretary Hitchcock sent his special agent, Colonel A. R. Greene, to make an examination, and he not only reported that the land in the Walker Basin was not arid, but he made photographs showing conclusively that much of it supported a thick growth of black pine, for the most part rees up to six inches in diameter.

There is no dispute, we believe, as to the fact that much of the land in that selection bears these small trees. The question now arises as to the aridity of such soil. Is the presence of these trees, under natural conditions, proof that the land does not fall in the class subject to reclamation under the terms of the Carey act? Heretofore land upon which cept by the application of water artificially, has been held by the Interior Department to be arid. No trees were mentioned in this construction of the law. As to whether the land selected in the Walker Basin will produce crops without irrigation, there is room for difference of opinion. Ordinarily it may be reckoned that the common run of agricultural crops will grow under the conditions that will produce a pine sapling. This leaves the burden of proof upon the Oregon Development Company to show that such land is, in the eye of

the law, arid. Two other reclamation projects in the Deschutes Valley are in the hands of the department. The Pilot Butte Development Company has selected 84,707 cres and the Columbia Southern Irrigation Company has taken nearly 28,000 acres, both having contracts with the state. Each of these is to be settled upon its merits, and the decision in the Walker Basin case is no indication of the treatment that will be given the others. It is not entirely safe to assume that a rule that will prevent reclama tion under the Carey act would keep the Government out of the field, for a more liberal definition of arid land will permit Government activity where Carey law operators would be expelled. This would be a rather parrow and technical construction, however, and it is hardly likely that the Government will take hold where it has turned others out because of the non-arid character of the

TRY AGAIN, SENATORS. What is the matter with the Senate committee on elections? Its members for the most part profess interest in the reform of primary elections and the direct nomination of candidates. Yet here with the session nearly five-sixths gone the best the committee does is to report unfavorably a bill which it is free to characterize as an improper measure. This is not the way to get ahead with ballot reform, honest elections or honest

nominations. If this bill is so bad, why doesn't the committee on elections bring in its own bill and ask for ite passage? It need have no fear of successful opposition. They charge the bill's adherents with supporting it purely out of desire for direct nominations, but without adequate knowledge of its weak points. It s an insufficient reply. What on earth is a committee for if it is to be content with reporting crude measures precisely as they are introduced and then point

out their defects in open session? We suspect that direct primaries are opposed by party men because of some secret fear that they will interfere with the successful maintenance of party organization. A little reflection should show the folly of this fear; for no mere mechanism of ballots can take from the strong their influence or imbue the weak with power. But we do not have to depend on theory, for the thing has been tried, and experience shows that while party organization is limited in the exercise of improper and dangerous power its normal and rightful function is strengthened. There is nothing in the operation of direct primary nominations inimical to such partisan activity as

would command the approval and enlist the co-operation of men like Senator

Kuykendall, Marsters and Mays. Under the direct nomination system the nominee's connection with the party machine dates from his nomination in stead of before it. His every interest propels him to close relationship with the central committee, and the central committee is moved by every consideration of self-interest to promote the nominee's campaign for election. Their mutual interests, therefore, become as strong for all legitimate party purposes as if the organization had dictated the candidate's nomination over the heads of his rivals. The difference is that he has established his claim on the nomination in a fair contest in an open field. The difference is that the successful nominee has the clear title of popular support, while the defeated aspirants cannot bolt the ticket on the plea of having been turned down by an ambitious and implacable boss. The difference, so far as the organization is concerned, is that their ticket is composed of men who have already established their running powers in the preliminary tryout. The result inevitably is stronger tickets and better officials.

The Oregonian has little doubt that the direct nomination system has commended itself to the people of Oregon and to the members of the Legislature, from their observation of its workings in Minnesota, Nebraska, South Carolina and elsewhere. There should be no betrayal of the reform by indirect methods. There is yet time for the Senate committee to bring in a properly drawn bill and secure its passage. There is yet time for the House to send to the Senate something on the general lines of the Croisan bill, with its objectionable features eliminated. If the House will do this, the Senate will hardly withhold its consent to the perfected measure.

The New York Financial Chronicle publishes the annual estimates of the world's production of gold and silver for the year 1902. That of gold foots up \$304,589,862, against \$266,559,884 the previous year. The highest yield of any year (that of 1899) was \$314,630,233. The remarkable fact is that the world's production is now within \$10,000,000 of what it was when the South African yield was at its maximum. In 1899 the out put of the latter was \$73,227,100. In 1902 it was only \$40,000,000. When the Trans vaal mines are turning out their usua quantity the total annual product will probably be \$25,000,000 larger than that of last year, unless there should be a falling off in other countries. There has been some decline in Canada, whose production for 1902 was only \$19,500,000, against \$24,400,000 in 1901, and \$27,900,000 in 1900. On the other hand, the output of Australia has increased about \$7,000,-000 and that of the United States about \$2,200,000, as compared with 1901. More remarkable than the world's production of gold, however, is that of silver, which own a steady increase in the face of declining prices. The out-turn of the year 1891 and of the past four years was as follows:

Value. \$124,474,000 93,128,400 98,871,840 98,344,640 87,421,880 Ounces. . 137,045,412 . 167,224,243 . 172,838,873 . 174,968,573 . 178,806,084

A curious fact is that the largest production of silver the world has ever known in a single year (1902) took place when the metal was selling at the lowest price ever known.

The rush for city jobs is unprece dented. This is saying a great deal, but it is, according to veracious testimony, Being true, it is in plain disretrue. gard of the law of supply and demand that salaries of city officials have in relief of a county that never overlook ordinary farm crops could not be grown | many instances been raised by the reor- an opportunity of doing something for the ganized city administration. This is, to say the least, indiscreet. An old law, founded upon actual, existing conditions, cannot be violated without disregard of the rights of somebody. In this instance that somebody is a noun of multitude and represents the taxpayers of the municipality of Portland. There is always a weak point in the generosity that is generous with a trust fund.

> The murderer of Sheriff Withers, of Lane County, has been safely lodged in the County Jail at Eugene. The community of which the dead Sheriff was an honored and useful member was naturally shocked and indignant at his cowardly murder, while in discharge of his official duty. But it is a law-abiding community, and well content to let the law deal with the murderer and his accomplice if it shall be shown that he had one. Elliot Lyons will be executed in due time and in accordance with civil procedure. The assurance of this is in the abiding sense of justice in an orderly community outraged by a good man's untimely taking off.

> The bill of Senator Marsters providing that all legal executions shall take place at the State Penitentiary is a measure both of political economy and public morals. The scenes around the inclosure within which a scaffold is being erected for several days prior to an execution and the excitement that rune riot in the vicinity, in which a crowd of men, women, girls and boys jostle each other in the hope of securing a glimpse of the proceedings at some stage of their progress, afford sufficient proof of the truth of this estimate.

Senator Aldrich's currency bill is certainly in the interest of stock speculators; but he should not be permitted to call it a measure in aid of an elastic currency. A currency that will expand easily and contract not at all is not clas tic. This is the weak point in all the reform bills, and that is why-Aldrich's with the rest-they are more dangerous than worthless.

Representative Gault makes a flerce onslaught on the dalles portage bill in order to punish Portland. We trust this incident will not escape the notice of our Eastern Oregon friends who have charged Portland with indifference to the enterprise. If Portland doesn't want the portage road, Mr. Gault at least couldn't find it out.

The removal of the duty on coal, w were assured by the tariff Bourbons, would have no effect on its price. Yet as importations come in the price goes down. This is hard on the Bourbons but possibly they will refuse to see. "Does you believe yo' honey or your eyes?" is the appeal to which they can

Senator Kean is much moved because prominent Mormons have more influence than the mere ordinary run of citizens. It is a vain desire—that the man of force be shorn of his power, Mormon or pagan-as vain as the Bryanic plaint that the poor are not rich, or our own familiar discontent that the East Side

APPEAL FROM CENTRAL OREGON

Prineville Review. Crook County, one of the best and most prolific counties in the state of Oregon, is suffering from two sources, which, when remedied, will tend to completely revolu-tionize things within her borders and make our county one of the first in wealth and importance. The first is wealth and importance. The first is want of irrigation, which we believe will be properly attended to under the National irrigation law. The second is lack of transporation facilities, which at the pres-ent time appear to be somewhat muddled. The Columbia Southern Railroad Com-pany says it is its intention to build into this county, but owing to the Har-riman system owning and controlling things they are at present unable to extend, unless one of two things happens, and that is that either for Harriman to allow them to build or else let Portland step in and aid the work of extension

If the Harriman system still objects to the extension of this road then let them commence a road at The Dalles to run into this county, as such a road would not be compelled to be under the Harriman system or any other system, but outlet by water. The Portland Chambe of Commerce has taken the matter up the moneyed men to raise the necessary funds and build the road themselves into a railroad and which would increase the iness in Portland in a very large de-It seems almost criminal that gree. road is not pushed forward." No stronger or truer language could be used. This vast territory, not only in Crook

County, but Malheur and Harney as well, needs only railroads within their borders to make their vacant lands homes for the industrious settlers. As soon as this is done Portland will feel the effects of it in more ways than one, and without fear of truthful contradiction we will assert that within five years from the time a rallroad is constructed, either connecting with the Columbia Southern at Shaniko or at The Dalles, the traffic coming from Crook Klamath and Harney Counties would be larger than that received by Portland from the whole of Eastern Oregon today. Portland and her business men should take this matter up at once and secure this vast trade, for if she delays some one will secure the goose that laye the golden egg and our trade, which Portland is certified to will be directed delays. s entitled to, will be diverted elsewhere, Now is the golden opportunity, now is the appointed time, and we appeal to Portland for aid in giving us railroad facilities and in return we will give them trade that will repay them many times over.

And From Lake County.

Lakeview Examiner. Every county and every section of Ore-gon assisted, through their representatives in the Legislature, the appropriation of \$500,000 for the Lewis and Clark Fair, Each of these countles will have to bear its proportion of taxes to meet this unusual expense. Likewise each county expects to reap a certain proportion of benefit from the tide of emigration to the state during the Fair. Unless a railroad is built nearer to the borders of Lake County, we cannot expect to get our share of the seekers for homes; or for that matter, any part of them. Lake is the most isolated county in the state of Ore-gon, and there is no chance of anyone finding us when other sections of Oregon can offer inducements that can be seen along a railroad. People have to see this country to appreciate it; they are not go-ing to start out on a 200 or 300-mile trip through an imaginary wilderness to seek a home, or even on the say so of some one who has been here. We repeat that people must see the county before they people must see the county before they decide to locate, and they are not going to go far out of their way to see it.

It is only fair for the citizens of Lake County to sek the business men of Portland what they intend to do about taking Lake County into the fold, which can be made into an immense feeding territory, or let us continue to slide toward and into the grip of San Francisco. Now that the Lewis and Clark Fair appropriation has so unanimously passed the Legisla-ture with the assistance of Lake County can't we, or shouldn't we expect that Portland should turn a hand toward the

ing in return? The people of this section of Oregon are perfectly helpless and it is up to Portland to decide our fate. Relief by Portage Road.

state, and receives noth-

Canyon City News. The best economy is a wise investment that will cooner or later yield returns Such seem to be the appropriations for the fair and for the portage road at The The former will yield slo direct returne, but those from the latter will be immediate. As it will help relieve the transportation situation it should be welcome to the people,

Build the Portage Road. Dalles Times-Mountaineer.

Information comes from Washington that The Dalles-Celilo canal bill cannot be passed at this session of Congress This leaves no question as to the duty the Oregon Legislature with reference the portage road bill. A portage road in operation will have a wonderful influence oward opening the purse strings in Congress at next session

Raising the President's Salary. Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is very generally admitted that the head of what we are fond of calling the greatest and richest nation on earth does not receive the compensation which the dignity of the office demands. While the greater part of the President's household expenses are paid from the public purse the demands upon him are heavy and his social obligations are inexorable. It has been more than once necessary to call upon the public to make suitable provis-ion for the families of deceased Presi-dents, a somewhat delicate task, which might have been avoided had not the upon the President's purse been so heavy as to preclude his leaving office with even a modest competence. Neither is it altogether fitting that a President upon retiring to private life should be compelled again to take up the struggle for a livelihood. Most Americans would gladly see their outgoing chief magistrate in a position to enjoy a redegree of the otium cum dignitate which should follow as the fruit of high public service.

Growing Tired of Trust Rule. Philadelphia Record.

Many manufacturers who have sold out to trusts have grown weary of inaction or a salaried place or submission to a board of directors and have gone back into their old business with the capital which the trust paid them for the works-almost invariably more than the works are worth. Thus the combination to suppress competition has resulted in more competition One of the chief members of the type writer trust has withdrawn and incorpor ated a company with \$5,000,000 of capital to manufacture writing machines. It is explained that the profits of his cor other members of the trust, and he has made up his mind to use his own h ability for himself instead of for other

An Abuse of Privilege. Louisville Courier-Journal.

Senator Foraker defends Senator Qua for tacking the statehood bill as a rider to two of the regular appropriation bills. The action, though frequently precedented. cannot be defended. But neither can the fillbustering tactics of the opponents of the statehood bill. The appropriation bills and the statehood bill should be deother matters, and any attempt so to complicate them or to prevent any vote on any of them is an abuse of Congressional functions as reprehensible as it is com-

SAMPSON'S HEROIC DEATH.

Minneapolis Tribune. It has transpired that the name of Admiral Sampson is to be added to the brief honor roll of the naval officers who laid down their lives in the Nation's service in the Spanish War. Publication of his med-ical record in connection with the routine granting of Mrs. Sampson's pension, dis-covers that he was a sufferer from an or-ganic brain disease by the tremendous strain of responsibility during his service as commander of the fleet; it made rapid progress after peace ended the responsibility of active service, and it brought about his death before his countrymen had learned to put the true value upon that service.

facts revealed by the publication of Admiral Sampson's medical record are breaking out in all the papers that were hostile to him, with the veiled intimation that the Government was at fault when it intrusted important command to one af-flicted with a malady almost certain to prove mortal. The brilliant service of Admiral Sampson is answer enough to this accusation. The Pitt Ministry might as well be blamed for sending a frail soldier like Wolfe on the Quebec expedition; or the Roman Senate for sending a man tainted with epilepsy to command in Gaul.

These papers take great pains to prove that the Government must have known of Sampson's disease when he was put in ommand of the fleet. He had an in 1897 and another in 1898, shortly before e was detailed as president of the Maine commission. The department knew this ecause it was a matter of record. Nevertheless, the President and Secretary of the Navy chose him to command the naval forces, because they believed him the most competent person in the entire service. This belief was justified by his erformance.

He must have known his own condition; yet he accepted the assignment with its heavy weight of responsibility, its in-creased strain upon his failing health and its almost certain sentence of death. All the features of his professional life and personal career seem to be woven together. The intense application of years, which affected his health, gave him the qualities that fitted him for command. In finally placing these qualities at the service of the Government in a supreme emergency, he deliberately exposed himself to the last and fatal strain that cost him his life. He died for his country as surely as a daring seaman who fires a nine, knowing that the explosion will kill

War Talk.

Indianapolis Journal. There is not a particle of evidence that There is not a particle of evidence that Germany wants war with this country. It is true that she may push things too hard in Venezuela. Our Government has evidently thought that this was a possibility, and it has, therefore, provided against any chance of this kind by keep-ing a formidable fleet in West Indian waters. But the purpose is not to fight Germany, but to prevent the possibility of trouble or misunderstanding. There is always a chance for misunderstanding growing out of the actions of fiery and mpulsive officers far away from home. But this does not mean that the two gov-ernments may become embroiled. We are glad that the President and the Secretary of State have kept their heads.
Their confidence in the good purposes of
Germany ought to have a calming effect.

In Re Hobson.

Providence Journal.

It is not likely that the Navy will ever lack men ready to attempt such brave deeds in the face of danger, but those who achieve distinction in this way deserve the gratitude of Congress and the country. They should not be held up to deal standards in all relations of life ideal standards in all relations of life afterward, for they are only human. Whatever course they may follow the memory of the supreme act is secure, and it may be 'considered only a personal matter with them whether they allow adulation to spoil their character. Of course the public is disappointed when the hero proves to be a mere man with weaknesses, but his careeer afterward should not be confused with the deed that brought him distinction. that brought him distinction

A Shameless Proposition. Detroit Free Press.

One of the most shameless propositions made in connection with the effort to get the statehood bill out of the way in order to proceed with the other import-ant business of Congress is to have the Senate adopt the measure with the un-derstanding that the President will veto it. Desirous as the President is to have ters of legislation facilitated, we have no notion that he would become party such bunco scheme as that suggests. would be utterly beneath the dignity and importance of the United States Senate to "play pretend."

Woes of a Handsome Hero. New York Press.

That Merrimac farce was a bad thing for Hobson. How singular that it sho have settled in his eyes! The young man is deserving of all our sympathy. There is no hope in this world for a handsome man who is a hero. Heroes should be makes them beautiful in the eyes of the emotional feminine. The man who is both hero and handsome is taking undue advantage of the compensating influences of nature.

May Have an Ulterior Purpose. Peoria Journal,

It will be observed that Mr. Quay has not carried out his announced intention of causing the Senate to hold continuou session until it agreed to take a vote on the statehood measure. Can it be possible that Quay does not want to put the Republicans to too much inconvenience who claim to be opposed to him are work ing in collusion to prevent legislation of subjects on which the party is divided?

Sympathy for the "Angel." Kansas City Star.

Rev. Dr. Parkhurst contemplates the publication of an "ideal" daily newspaper in New York. Like most other persons not in the newspaper business, Dr. Park-hurst is quite firm in the belief that he knows all about it. The sooner the "ideal" newspaper myth is exploded the better, but there is necessarily some sym pathy for those who are going to furnish Dr. Parkhurst with funds.

The Only Cure for the Evil. Dallas News.

If Congress would wisely regulate the mbinations let Congress repeal the laws of its own creation, out of which the evils have grown. That is not a difficult thing to do if the party in power is really eager to rid the country of the evils that have come of these law-made monopolies.

When earth's last picture is painted,
And the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded,
And the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest—and, faith, we shall need it—
Lie down for an aeon or two,
Till the Master of All Good Workmen Shall set us to work anew.

And those that were good shall be happy; And those that were good saint or mappy.
They shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-learne canvas
With brushes of comet's hair.
They shall find real saints to draw fromMagdalene, Peter and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting,
and never get tired at all.

And only the Master shall praise us And only the Master shall And no one shall work for money, one shall work for fame

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A Kansas City law firm has sued a telephone company because "central" would not connect other 'phones with their own. Now, "central," will you be good?

An Oklahoma editor, noting the assertion of a scientist that "If the earth should be flattened the sea would be two miles deep all over the world," says: any man is caught flattening out the earth, shoot him on the spot. There's a whole lot of us in Oklahoma that can't swim."

Rev. Annie Ford Eastham insists that the limit of a minister's profession is 15 or 20 years, and that at the end of that time he should be shot. Has the Rev. Annie reached the limit? If so, apply her remedy. Seattle

With all due deference to the mandatory opinion of our hyphenated contemporary, we must confess that we see no reason for awaiting the expiration of the time limit in Annie's case.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer published an editorial yesterday on the trouble in the Balkans. The article appears to have been hurriedly dashed off by the sporting editor, and is, therefore, in some degree immune from criticism. We hope, however, that a writer who can come so perilously near a charming "buil" as to say that Macedonia is commencing "to seethe with revolutionary fires" will confine his literary efforts to the baseball column.

Booth Tarkington is regarded by other members of the Indiana Assembly as the real aristocrat of the House. Every time he stirs the eyes of his fellow solons are on him, and his cigarettes are mysteriou to some of the lawmakers. Mr. Tarkington is partial to the Turkish cigarette, ar the "Turks" that he consumes have a little closer resemblance to burning rag carpets than the average. A session is not over more than a minute until Mr. Tarkington has one of the abominations going full steam.

Captain Riggs, of New York, according to the newspapers, is lamenting at the dearth of red-haired typewriter girls. "A straight 'ad' would bring me fifty girls in an hour," said Captain Riggs. "A 'redhaired ad' won't bring one."

Two girls with brilliant locks were ha mering away at their typewriters at ar astonishing rate, and the Captain gazed at them wistfully. "The oldest one is going to leave. You

simply can't keep a red-haired typewriter -they will marry off or better themselve some way. Red-haired people are always well fixed. They are smarter, brighter and prettier than any other kind. They are such a relief from the monotonous, blackhaired, yellow-haired, sandy-haired, brown haired women you meet. They have suc a cheerful, sunny appearance, too, I always like things bright and warm-looking. A red-haired woman is the prettiest thing in the world, and they light up a room

The following epistle was received at this deak yesterday:

The verse below is offered as a means of teaching the tenderfoot how to pronounce the name of our beautiful river; and also as a feeble imitation of the affecting stanzas recently published in The Oregonian concerining the gentleman from Nantucket:

There lived near the River Willamette A man by the name of Me When he stepped off a stair,
Which he found wasn't there,
He remarked with much vigor, "Oh, —."

After mature deliberation, we have resolved not to publish the rest of the verse, fearing that the gentleman may have been incorrectly quoted. It seems certain, judging from the handwriting, the stationers and other eloquent signs, that the versific is a woman, although all signature has been thoughtfully omitted. It paius us that any poetess should have to listen to such language as Mr. Mohamet is said to have used, and we, therefore, are movto ask that she write us frequently for

advice. In other words: When you get some more news of Mo. Just send us an ax and we'll slam it, With alm good and true

Profane near the River Willamette

How the red carnation came into favor with President McKinley, says the Indianapolis News, is prettily told by Mrs. James T. Ray, of Newcastle, Pa., who wa Miss Lucy Tracewell, a student at Lake

Erie College, at Painesville, O. When Mr. McKinley was Governor of Ohio a bevy of college girls made him an honorary member of their class, at the same time pinning on his coat their class flower, a red carnation. From that day on he was seen wearing one of these fragrant flowers in his buttonhole.

The incident occurred on November 19 1893, when Governor McKinley was in Painesville, a guest of the Garfield Club. While McKinley was in Painesville he de voted no little time to the college girls who had honored him, and his attitude thereafter showed that he appreciated the action of those girls. He evinced a special interest in the class, and often remem bered and was remembered by them there after. Mrs. McKinley took great interes in the class and its insignia, and provide a bunch of carnations for her husband's room each morning.

The first reunion of the class was in progress when McKinley was nominated for the Presidency. The class sent a con gratulatory telegram. They celebrated th event by the ringing of the college bell and giving their college yell, "Oh, ninety, ninety-four." At each reunion of the class the President was remembered with a box of carnations.

President McKinley visited the college everal times, and was a memebr of its board of trustees.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Fudge-Do you want a worse revenge than that? Judge-Yes, yes. Fudge-Make him cat some popular health food,-Baltimore Her-

Getting Him Wild.—Dime Museum Manager—Say, Jim, the wild man is too tame this morning. Chuck him in that colored comic supplement.—Judge. "Is he such a poor shot, then?" "Poor shot!" exclaimed Dangerous Dan, scornfully. "Well, rather. Why say, I'd just as soon have him shoot at me when he's soher as when he's drunk."—Chicago Evening Post,

when he's drunk.—Chicago Evening Post.
Father—So Filmy Luhring is engaged
young Rattles? Let me see, wasn't she ey
gaged to somebody else a little while age
Daughter—Somebody else! Father! Why, our set no engagement is considered con plete without her.—Brooklyn Life. "And let's have plenty of paims," sa fr. Cumrox. "That is a very good sugge Mr. Cumrox. That is a very good sugges-tion." answered his wife. "I'm glad to see that your taste is so good. I'm very fond of palms." "Yen; they're useful as well as ornamental. There's nothing handler than a good big bunch of palms to go to sleep be-hind during a musicale."—Washington Star.

"Eh, isn't this the same girl whose pic-ture we used the other day?" "It's the same girl, but it isn't the same picture." "Why not?" "We are using the other picture in the second part of it paper as a portrait he second part of ti paper as a portro of that Montana female desperado."—Clev land Plain Dealer. "Why don't you try to carve your na high on the tablets of fame?" asked ' poetic enthusiast. "My friend," answer Senator Sorghum, a little severely, "th

so no use in my dodging around with a ham-ner and chisel when I can do such effective work with a fountain pen and a check book."

-Washington Star,