

The Oregonian.

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one per cent is perniciously active. This may explain, but it can hardly explain the fact that "Butlerism" is still a controlling power, not only in the politics of a great and notoriously corrupt city, but its representative is strong enough, in spite of all the disclosures of the methods by which he was sent to Congress, to solicit in his behalf an interest in his political career among members of his party that was able to clog for days the wheels of legislation.

Freedom of domestic trade will be safe from interference so long as it conforms to the letter and spirit of public needs. When it departs from that condition it will make sure to incur the enmity of the people, and it is ready to meet out, and which the courts can not much longer withhold.

THREE NEW SENATORS.

In the new Senate there is no more interesting and promising group than the three new men from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Without any disparagement of the ability of Senator Simon, whose unsatisfactory career in the Senate was largely due to circumstances beyond his control, it must be frankly said that the Pacific Northwest is greatly the gainer by the change which sends each of these three new men to the United States Senate.

THE NEXT PAPAL ELECTION.

It is reported that anxiety about the pope's health causes some of the cardinals to postpone their departure from Rome. This anxiety is natural, for the pope's health has been steadily declining since his 83rd birthday is easily extinguished by a comparatively trifling accident or sickness that would not be fatal to a younger man.

A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

The most salient feature of the short session of Congress, so far as the interests of the Pacific Northwest are concerned, has been the remarkable recognition secured by Representative M. A. Moody, of the Second Oregon District, and the effective service he has been enabled thereby to render his section and the public interests generally.

DANGER AND NO DANGER.

Three agencies of public opinion which are seeking to minimize the bearing of the Champion lottery decision upon the problems of the trust get little countenance in Wall Street. There, at least, the possibilities of Congressional interference with monopolistic corporations are so faint a way to be unrecorded.

THE SHAME OF MISSOURI.

Lincoln Steffens has an article in the current number of McClure's Magazine under the head of the "Shamelessness of St. Louis," in which the career of Colonel Edward R. Butler, better known in that city as "Colonel Ed," "Colonel Butler" or just plain "Boss," is somewhat fully explicated.

when some traveler from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's.

The Oregon State Journal complains that the Legislature passed a flat salary law which raised the salaries of the state officers. A score of other papers of the state are complaining because the Legislature did not pass a flat salary law.

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QUESTION STILL OPEN.

We observe that with the exception of the Journal of Commerce none of our New York contemporaries agree with the view that the "final" decision in the lottery cases the Supreme Court has not decided the whole question of Federal power over interstate commerce.

The most interesting question that was whether regulations could go to the extent of absolute prohibition. According to the majority opinion, the court decided that depends upon circumstances. In the case of lottery tickets, it is justified by the nefarious character of the traffic.

That the decision in the lottery cases leaves open the question whether the state would sustain the Constitutionality of an act of Congress prohibiting interstate commerce in the English currency in themselves, for instance, steel, copper, coal, or other products of so-called trusts or combinations, has been and is the object of the Times' article.

The present case, says Judge Harlan, "does not require the court to indicate the full extent of the power that Congress may exercise in the regulation of commerce among the states." And again, referring to the question whether Congress may arbitrarily exclude from commerce among the states any article, commodity, or thing of whatever kind or nature or however useful and valuable, the court says: "It will be time enough to consider when we must do so."

The Supreme Court in the lottery case divided 5 to 4 upon the Government's contention that Congress has authority to prohibit interstate traffic in lottery tickets. If a statute prohibiting interstate commerce in the products of a trust or combination should ever come before the court, it is believed that the majority of the Justices should then hold the opinion that the reasoning in the lottery case which applied to guilty merchandise is inapplicable to innocent merchandise.

NAVAL PRECEDENT.

Philadelphia North American. Guns that do not shoot at the right moment and gunners who can't hit anything when they do shoot are new things in the navy. The navy is making a mistake in considering residents and property-owners on any particular street are no better than those on another.

"MAX" IS STILL RAMPANT.

Public Chief, who signs himself "of Oregon," jumped on ye editor yesterday because of the statement that Senator-elect Charles W. Fulton, of Oregon, was a lawyer and insisting that in his case the word should have been spelled with a capital L. "Not only is a Lawyer," said Max, "but he stands 6 feet 11, weighs 220 pounds, and can lick you."

POWER IN THE FARMER'S HANDS.

Utica (N. Y.) Observer. The farmer who reads of the great corporations that bear so important a part in the commercial and industrial world today is very apt to think of himself as outside the pale of those who exert a controlling influence on the community at large.

A VERSATILE INVOLVING.

Louisville Times. Since the granting of his pardon a week ago Cole Younger has committed suicide in Connecticut, purchased a Wild West show, denied thrice daily his intention of becoming an actor and has entered upon his career as an author.

LIVING FOREVER.

St. Louis Republic. If dreams of the scientists should ever be realized death will become only a memory or a supposition. In order to live forever it will only be necessary to keep formalin and salicylic solution in the house and have a surgeon in the neighborhood, so that operations for appendicitis may be performed on demand, and the rest will be left to the railroads to make this world an Elysium.

EFFECT OF OPEN RIVER.

Wilson Creek Chief. The improving of the Columbia River means more to the people of Eastern Washington and Oregon and Western Idaho than many of them are wont to observe. Aside from the direct benefit of having a waterway for the transportation of freight it will mean a great reduction in the cost of the Baker City flour of Baker City, Or., has taken the trouble to lock up the freight rates between points affected by an open river and points on the river above the obstructions.

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ADDICKS AND QUAY.

New Orleans Times-Democrat. There is no human being in the world that has not some trait of character that commands him to his fellow beings. It might be assumed that the most estimable trait in the character of "Gas Man" Addicks of Delaware, who is now and has been for some years trying to break into the United States market, is well hidden, and that the trait lies very near the surface.

ROGUE IN SPECIAL PENSIONS.

Kansas City Journal. The special pension system ought to be abolished entirely. The general pension of the United States are just and exceedingly liberal. The applicant who cannot measure up to the requirements of the statutes and the department is, nine hundred and ninety-nine times out of a thousand, unworthy of the claim which he makes against the Government.

THE RACE QUESTION.

Life. The South complains that the President has forced the race question, but it is the President who has forced it. He has not made the situation. It is one that calls for all the wisdom of the serpent, and all the harmlessness of the dove. It is hard in the North to make anything like a tight race question which will not do them more harm than good, and yet the North would be ill-content with a President who was not solicitous to discover and perform his full duty in their behalf.

"SOT AGIN" COURT DRESS.

Washington Post. The people in this country may be a trifle crude and cause those of our foreign representatives who are taking to court dress to feel somewhat embarrassed. They are too firmly "set" in their views to be moved.

CHILDREN.

H. W. Longfellow. Come to me, O ye children, And whisper in my ear What the birds and the winds are singing In your sunny atmosphere. Have vanished quite away.

ITS PATERNITY IN DISPUTE.

Atlanta Constitution. The President wants it understood that the Littlefield "antitrust" bill was in no sense an embodiment of the Administration idea, and Representative Littlefield mournfully protests that a basket baby was substituted for the Littlefield bill. The "antitrust" would only tilt the bald-headed truth about that bill's paternity.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The \$500 yearly may induce Oregonians students to spend three years at old Oxford. Our trials are gradually diminishing. The Oregon Legislature and Congress are out of the way.

With less than an inch and a half of rainfall in February and the street sprinkler running in the early days of March, Oregon's reputation for moltness will need revision. There is one important difference between Roberts and Smoot, and it will probably be reflected in the treatment at Washington. Smoot is a Republican, Roberts was a Democrat.

The Macedonians of today are no more like the phalanx that destroyed the Persian Empire than the Greeks of the present time are like the "hatless" Spartans who defended the Pass of Thermopylae. An original "forty-niner" returned to San Francisco the other day, and because he could find none of his former companions committed suicide. He seemed to know where to look for them—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Morgan and Rockefeller are likely to come into collision through the purchase of Popocatepetl. Of course, Rockefeller has acquired title to the volcano, and will hold it, but the old spouter is continually spitting up stuff from the interior of the earth, and the earth is Morgan's. After a heated debate between anti-Woolcott and Woolcott Republicans, the Colorado House passed the Breckenridge bill providing for the nomination by each party of five Senatorial candidates to be voted on by the people, and the one receiving the highest vote to be supported by the party in the Legislature. This was considered a decided victory for the anti-Woolcott men.

Who'll get the reward if the man captured at Elma proves to be the Olympia murderer and jailbreaker? The officer who took him at Elma still stoutly avers he had the right man, but could do nothing in face of the failure of the Olympia lawyer to identify the prisoner. Now the Yakima officials will try their hand, if the first capture was right and there any valid reward for the prisoner at this time? Writing of "Real and Sham Natural History" in the March Atlantic, John Burroughs puts Mrs. Fannie Hardy Eckstrom's "Bird Book" and her work on the woodpeckers among the real natural histories, and says they are "fresh, original and stimulating productions." He says Ernest Thompson-Seton is a romance in the field of natural history, and the Rev. William J. Long still worse. Much of Mrs. Eckstrom's work was done at Oregon City, where her husband, since dead, was a young Episcopal rector a few years ago.

That rather amusing body, the New York Board of Aldermen, was shocked by a resolution introduced by Alderman McCarthy to indorse the spanking by the husband of his wife or grown-up daughters if they should fail to reach home at 10 o'clock in the evening. This was a result of the decision of a Long Island Magistrate in the case of a citizen who had enforced this penalty without warrant of law. The Magistrate decided that he was acting within his right as head of the household. It is almost past belief, but the New York Aldermen "threw down" McCarthy. Secretary Shaw puts his sentiments on a very important matter in this form: "You will bear with me that there is nothing in the world so well worth looking after as the boy, and I think you will agree with me that there is no being in the world so much neglected as the boy. There is little space, scant room for him. So long as we wear curls there are birthday parties for him, but not afterward. There are parties and teas and seats at the table, when some one has to be present, and we are glad of it. I wish there were more boys. We cherish our girls, and not too carelessly, but we leave the boys to their own devices, and his environment with much advice and very little guidance. Girls are naturally winsome, gentle, companionable, and are welcome in all homes, but the boys are the ones where boys are invited. About the only door that swings with sure welcome to the boy, and the only chair that he sits on, is the only place where he is sure of a welcome is where you do not desire him to go.

Should Have Her Monument. Springfield Republican. A singular disregard of the whole object of a poor woman's starving herself to death is contemplated in Mount Vernon, N. Y. This woman, Johanna Meyer, was once a very handsome girl, and was erected over her grave. So she tried to live on 6 cents a day, cooking her meager food on a gas stove in her room, although it is now found that she had \$300 in the city. She did not draw from this fund to support herself, just because she wanted a monument. Now it is said that she will be buried in the potter's field, the place of the poor, Resurrection. The extent of her relations are. It would seem to be a simple thing to carry out her wishes. Is there not a public administrator in New York to do this? If not, where do her hard-earned savings go? The woman had as good a right to a mausoleum as any of the millionaires whose ostentatious tombs disfigure Woodlawn and other cemeteries in the environs of the great city.

Continuous Naval Increase. Public Opinion. From the number and earnestness of the demands now being made that we should largely increase our naval program it might be supposed that the United States was standing still in this particular. On the contrary, we are already at work on 24 large ships, of which 13 are battleships, while France has under construction only nine battleships, Germany ten and Russia ten. The extent of naval construction is better exhibited in a comparison of tonnage of ships under construction: We have 234,351 tons, against France's 27,850, Germany's 225,500 and Russia's 180,000. It is toward a remembered that the construction abroad is merely a part of a programme extending over a number of years, while ours may or may not be continued. It is toward a continuous future programme that our advocates of naval expansion should work for the present we are doing very well.

Its Paternity in Dispute. Atlanta Constitution. The President wants it understood that the Littlefield "antitrust" bill was in no sense an embodiment of the Administration idea, and Representative Littlefield mournfully protests that a basket baby was substituted for the Littlefield bill. The "antitrust" would only tilt the bald-headed truth about that bill's paternity. Mr. Bryan Gets Even. Kansas City Star. "The antitrust" bill of Delaware, "represents the average Republican," in this way getting even with those Republicans who cite Bryan as an average Democrat.