

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Cloudy to partly cloudy; variable winds becoming southerly.

WASHINGTON'S EIGHTH LEGISLATURE. The record of the eighth legislature of the State of Washington is a fairly good one.

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There is always an element of uncertainty about a new law, and accordingly, the test of time will need to be applied to some of the important bills which were passed at Olympia at the session just ended.

The tax bill provides increased facilities for getting those taxable property on the rolls. This bill is undoubtedly superior to the railroad commission bill.

The aggregate amount carried by the appropriation bills shows Washington to be an expensive state to operate. The appropriations made for the educational, penal and reformatory institutions and for handling the machinery of the state in other departments run up very close to \$2,000,000.

If increase in crime means a reduction in city and county expenses—and it undoubtedly does—the "moral" laws passed will save the state large sums.

the effect of these laws, and they remain measures of unusual merit. With gamblers and magareaux subject to punishment as felons, Washington should shortly discern an improvement in the moral tone of the entire state.

THE EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON might not have been a model in all respects, but it worked as well as it could, and it is well to have it as a record of its progress.

Every evening, with whose good purposes we sympathize, but with whose working hypothesis of public life we find it impossible to agree. Says this well-meaning but imperfectly informed journal, speaking of one of Delaware's new Senators:

Mr. Allen, whose name on the roll call of "the highest deliberative body in the world" new senators, is a man absolutely without the slightest qualification for the position.

We shall not dispute the implication that Mr. Allen's ignorance of public questions is on the whole to his discredit, but the further idea that this fault impairs his fitness for the United States Senate is certainly a most curious and perverted reading of the situation.

Yet we would not in injustice deny to the dominant type of Senator such a "knowledge of public questions" as it undoubtedly possesses. There are aspects of our National problems which the Senatorial research has been wide and deep.

There will be many complaints in the Fall of 1904, when the taxpayers are called upon to pay a second tax in one year. For the time being it will seem almost like a double taxation.

The owner of an orchard who is not now spraying his trees has but little claim to the title of "fruit-grower." He is more of a fruit-destroyer than a fruit-grower, for his own trees are gradually yielding to the ravages of pests.

Germany has "claims" against Russia similar to her claims against Venezuela, but she doesn't bluster and proceed to seize custom-houses and to loot the claims.

to be supposed that would end the war. Serious conflict between these trusts seems inevitable, and we may be at the beginning of it. There is ground for the suspicion, however, that Mr. Hill will not emerge from the battle wholly unscathed.

FOR A GREATER NAVY. England never would tolerate a great standing navy, but she maintains the greatest naval establishment in the world. Her opposition to a great military establishment is based on the theory that it might be used to control the government, or at least to limit the free political action of the people.

However, neither the United States nor Great Britain needs a large standing army, for they have government through opinion and no habit of rebellion against its decrees.

In the last hours of the late session of Congress, the naval appropriation bill, carrying a total of \$81,877,291.43, was passed. It was the largest naval appropriation ever carried through Congress.

The late Legislature of Montana created a bureau for the prevention of cruelty to children and dumb brutes in that state. As an inducement for the prosecution of persons guilty of such cruelty, it is provided that one-half of the fines imposed for violation of the law shall be paid to informers.

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Germany has "claims" against Russia similar to her claims against Venezuela, but she doesn't bluster and proceed to seize custom-houses and to loot the claims. There would be trouble, Germany, as the bully of Europe, is more a coward than ever France was when she was the bully of Europe.

It takes the Seattle Post-Intelligencer a page, more or less, to tell what that town is doing in the way of preparation for President Roosevelt's visit.

of a faithful wife and mother of five small children, yet those who know only the facts in the case must feel that the scales of justice up at Salem do not swing the same for all. The executive had occasionally tips them off the balance. The oft-repeated argument that to imprison the criminal is to inflict the punishment upon his innocent family is fully answered by saying that the offender should have thought of this when he committed the wrong.

THE ORIGINAL CARNATION was a five-petaled bloom, native in the south of Italy. It was the first to be brought to this country, and it was the first to be raised in California.

One of Scotland's widely known humble citizens died the other day in the person of Robert James Blair, a few men in the rugged northlands had many personal acquaintances as Blair of Aberfoyle enjoyed.

The ordinary playing-cards of today are derived from a stick game, supposed to have originated in this country. Fifty small sticks are packed in the "game" and are dealt to the players by means of the sticks, rapidly with the two hands.

For centuries after this all playing-cards have been made of wood, horn, metal, afterward on cardboard. The pictures, at first legendary heroes and ladies, gradually became the fixed, wood-faced caricatures we now know.

THE GRAVITY OF THE WRONG done by the failure of Congress to take up the Philippine tariff bill opening to the products of the islands admission to our home ports on more rational terms, is such as to occasion regrets in some quarters that President Roosevelt did not order the House as well as the Senate in his call for an extra session.

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NOTES OF VARIOUS KINDS

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A GRIEVOUS WRONG.

Chicago Record-Herald. Despite the good laws enacted by the Philippine Congress, the Filipinos were shamelessly wasted by the wily plunderer, through filibustering, of many meritorious measures which the people demanded and which were entirely devoid of partisan character.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

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