

The Oregonian.

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shops, but many of them, look as if the old man window curtain was doing service again and left-over ties had been utilized by clever designers. It is well not to be censorious in a matter of this kind.

OFFERED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.

If the Hartis plan for improvement of the Columbia between the dallas and Celilo Falls is impracticable in any of its parts, the sooner we know it the better. We have had enough of monkey work with boat railways and similar instruments of circumbulation and delay.

The boat railway was adopted and shopped up for ten years or more before anybody in Congress or the department dared to breathe a hint of its worthlessness. Once it was thrown aside, none was so poor to do it reverence.

The Washington correspondent discloses the fact that the Oregonian really believes that Captain Hartis rocks of twenty or thirty tons with which he proposes to dam the Columbia at Five-Mile Rapids would float down that torrential and opulent stream like chips on a current.

TRUSTS HELD IN CHECK.

In the light of the present conflict between Hill and Harriman, the absorption of all the railroads into one "community of interest" takes on the aspect of a ghastly joke. Here is the Union Pacific proposing by improvements in roadbed and rolling stock to reduce the time between New York and San Francisco to 3 1/2 days.

The dimensions of this engagement are such as to put all other exhibits in competition to the blush. Harriman proposes to tunnel the Sierras and make the line from Omaha to San Francisco equal in roadbed, grade and equipment to the best trunk line between New York and Chicago.

All of which may remind us that there are many other influences in operation which will tend to modify or reverse the popular fear concerning trusts. The well-ascertained injurious tendencies and positive acts of the trusts can neither be denied nor explained away.

This thing may be all right, but we doubt it. It has a most disturbing resemblance to the vicissitudinous course of the Nicaragua Canal in Congress. The inspiration of the delay in that case was nothing of obstruction. It was hoped nothing of that sort obtains in this case.

GERMANY AND HOLLAND.

It is reported that the Kaiser only awaits a favorable moment to annex Holland. The independence of Holland and Belgium is guaranteed by the treaties made between the powers after Belgium became separated from the sovereignty of the Netherlands in 1830.

France today has her frontier farther fortified. The only weakness is on the side of Belgium, and this is secure so long as Belgium retains its independence. If France should annex Belgium, she would be obliged to rectify and fortify her frontier to meet the scheme of defense of her new possession.

This report that Germany is about to annex and absorb Holland is an old tale and is subject to periodical resurrection at the hands of the sensational journals of Europe. There is probably nothing in it. It would be too serious an undertaking for Emperor William to revive and readjust the map of Europe by annexing Holland.

AS TO ROSE BUSHES. Rose bushes in dooryards, rose bushes along the curbs, rose bushes by the acre on the Lewis and Clark Fair site: Everybody seems to be in favor of planting rose bushes.

It is at length stated, with official positiveness, that Mrs. Florence Maybrick will be released from her English prison upon the completion of fifteen years incarceration therein. This term will expire in April, 1904.

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The ungraded country school has also an advantage the value of which many of us have realized. The child in such a school has all the benefit of hearing the instruction given to upper-class pupils. Being so constituted that he cannot continually concentrate his attention upon his own lessons.

The young woman of Seattle who was married last month to a Chinese hop-grower of North Yakima has secured a divorce from her aliened husband on the plea that she loathed him and that his presence was disagreeable to her beyond her power to describe.

The handsome class girl yet received by Harvard—and the old university has received many—is a student prepared by the class of '79. It is to cost \$15,000, and will have a seating capacity of 30,000.

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OUTSIDE AID FOR THE FAIR.

The failure of the Colorado Legislature to take a liberal interest in the Lewis and Clark Fair is not surprising nor is the least discouraging. Colorado has no direct share in the historical associations.

The situation of Colorado is very different from that of the State of Washington, which through the action of its Governor has declined to make any financial provision for the fair. But here there is no cause for discouragement.

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PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

Kansas City Star. President Roosevelt's increasing power as a party leader is shown by a comparison of the results which he secured from the session of Congress just ended with the results obtained from previous sessions.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The press will not be muzzled nor stilled though walls do crumble. Wise choice of companions proffert a man more than a rich father far distant.

The investigation of Kansas City's police department makes it plain that St. Louis is not the only blotch on the map of Missouri. It is now plain why the calamity howlers used to think our freedom worse than the despotism of Russia.

The United Mineworkers are already feeling their oats. An advance in the initiation fee from \$2 to \$10 is rather larger than the advance in pay of miners recommended by the commission. But those who are in are running the union just now.

Thirty-three pages of the Congressional Record sufficed for the proceedings of the Senate up to the time Morgan embarked upon the Panama treaty "discussion." Then it took 100 pages, mostly of extra fine print, to contain the remarks of the worthy Alabamian.

In Pasadena is sold a concoction called "harmless beer." One John Handewsky imbibed considerable of it, went home and brutally beat his wife. It took three men to get him to jail. If "harmless beer" has that effect in Pasadena, the Sacramento Bee wants to know what whisky would do in that climate.

The latest estimate places the total number of apple trees of bearing age in the United States at something over 300,000,000. This is nearly three trees to every person. These trees yield more than 175,000,000 bushels. Not all of these apples are consumed at home, for in years of full crop more than 3,000,000 go abroad. Yet the apples kept at home are more than two bushels to every adult and child.

William Jennings Bryan is serving on the jury at Lincoln. The first case called was one in which a widow opposed a corporation. The defendant attorney turned to Mr. Bryan and asked him, if in the case of a woman against a big corporation he could act fairly and impartially, according to the evidence, and Mr. Bryan answered: "I think I can." There was a disposition to challenge him, but the former Presidential candidate was sworn in.

According to a story in the Chicago Inter Ocean, John Gridley, of Gridley, Colo., raises hogs and wheat. His wheat has suffered greatly from wild geese, and neither scarecrow nor shotgun helped him out. So he stuck a lot of stakes in his fields and on each stake he fastened a spinning top. The first morning had 27 geese. That afternoon he got 14, and the next day he got 62. He fed the geese to his hogs, which seemed to like the unusual food.

An odd story comes from Texas to the effect that a negro preacher of the name of Stokes was making speeches in Gregg County against prohibition when he was seized by a mob of white men, who carried him across the Sabine River and were preparing to lynch him. At this juncture Stokes says he gave the Masonic sign of distress, whereupon the leader of the mob stepped to his side and told his followers that the man's life must be spared. It was spared, the leader guaranteed that Stokes were never enter Gregg County again. The mob acquiesced and Stokes left the county.

Paul Kruger is regarded by interviewers as an exceedingly "tough proposition." The New York Times says that Foutley Bigelow on one occasion attempted to get the old man to talk, but could get only monosyllables in reply to questions. He employed every art of the interviewer, but to no avail. Finally, desiring of getting any information of use to him by straight questioning, he determined to be diplomatic and approach Mr. Kruger from his family side. So he said, very nonchalantly: "Is your wife entertaining this season?" Short and sharp came the gruff answer: "Not very." Bigelow exploded with laughter and gave up the task. Oom Paul smiled grimly as he said: "Good-bye."

A Berlin correspondent calls attention to the antiquated and cumbersome method of forwarding remittances in Germany. A check system such as has been developed and perfected as an instrument of commerce in Britain or the United States is practically unused there, payments being usually effected by means of money orders, bought at the local postoffice. The English bank exercises the double function of adjusting accounts and guarding wealth, whereas the German bank, under favorable circumstances, scarcely does more than the latter. For the German merchant the postoffice is, in a sense, what the clearing-house of the English and American banking systems is for it is an active partner in the settlement of differences between debtor and creditor.

Pleasantries of Paragrapers. Patient—Can you tell how bad a man is by his tongue, doctor? Doctor—Yes, if he is a profane man.—Yonkers Statesman. The elopers have returned to ask your blessing. "Blessing, eh? How do they want it? In the form of an allowance, or a cash deposit?"—Life. Gustie—How did you ever happen to pick out such a suit of clothes? Burleigh—Oh, I just went to blind. Burleigh—And deaf? Gustie—Blind.

Beryl—Such table manners! Why, I hear that Jack ate the pie that his wife baked with a knife. Beryl—if you saw the pies you'd imagine he'd have to eat them with a saw, a chisel and a stone crusher.—Boston Herald. The elopers have returned to ask your blessing. "Blessing, eh? How do they want it? In the form of an allowance, or a cash deposit?"—Life. Gustie—How did you ever happen to pick out such a suit of clothes? Burleigh—Oh, I just went to blind. Burleigh—And deaf? Gustie—Blind.

Sam S. Stinson, in Leslie's Monthly for March, says I'll never "mount" so much. "An' generally man's right. I never seem to get in touch. With things, just like I might." "Maw says to me the other day: 'What makes you fool your time away? A-fishin' all the time?'" "Maw says to me: 'How old be you?'" "I sorer hung my head." "You know I'm nearly forty-two, an' her maw 'An' clothed me now for quite a spell." "I never earned a dime." "A feller can't do nothin' well, A-fishin' all the time."