# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER-Partly cloudy, with YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum ten rature, 54; minimum temperature, 44; pre-pliation, 0.15 inch.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8.

COLLEGE ORATORICAL CONTESTS.

"Something too much of this" The remark is from "Hamlet." nian quotes the phrase that it may apply it to the contests of college oratory. To us these contests between colleges seem every way unfruitful. The whole question is Do such exercise contain within them a principle, method or means of intellectual development? The Oregonian takes leave to doubt it and it will give its reasons.

Quickness of mental operation or action is an essential condition of oratory. But the practice of writing out oration; and committing them to memory for delivery has an opposite effect. It chains the mind down to the letter and checks the flow of the spirit. It leads the mind into a state of dependence, and even of helplessness, cuts off spontanelty of thought and substitutes mal coldness of speech for the quick leap of thought into living words. The ction is not that the college orations in themselves are mostly "poor stuff. On the whole, they are as good as you might expect. But the objection is that from their method of preparation and delivery no real development of the powers of the mind, for purposes pracready speaker never will be made that

If one is to be a participant, as a speaker, in actual affairs, he must school himself to talk in the simplest, plainest and most direct way. Study and practice of sonorous periods will do little or nothing for him. The skill he needs he can get only in the rub of affairs; and in order to find it be mus forget his method of college oratory, or at least abandon it. But the chance is that it will first have given him a mental habit that will be a handicap to him, and even lead him into failure.

Rarest of men are real orators. And they "come by nature." The village lyceum, the college debating club, may indeed, be useful, for most of the utterance is spontaneous, and therefore very much alive. But the prepared "oration" is a very different thing. It is to be committed to memory and 'spouted," and has neither life oor soul The written essay, as an exercise, is better altogether. It takes another style, is more simple and natural, and freer from temptation to bombastic ex

To speak simply, directly and closely, on occasion, and with variety, feeling and force is a great accomplishment But the training for it should not lead one to depend on his memory for words and phrases, but on the play of mind upon the subject. Development of the power to use one's resources is the object to be attained. The first step toward it is abandonment of the style of college oratory, "Action," seld one who said everything most pregnantly, "action is eloquence"; and for impres sion on the hearer, the way a thing said completely transcends the value of the matter itself. Seen in print, it may be almost worthless. On the other hand, the most valuable matter, delivered without action, may have no effect at all beyond that of producing weariness.

Here is the description of the orator of the orator of the pulpit, of the orator consummate and paramount, since the appeal to the religious instinct and naman always and most deeply touches the imagination:

His style, conformable with his majesty rose to an equality with the infinite it was simple as the oracle that disclains to please, unpremeditated as the word uttered, without selection, in the rapidity of thought; slow as meditation, that forgets the lapse of time; rapid as the inspiration that fears to es-cape from itself; unaimed as the shaft which a buried as random and which the way does huried at random, and which the eye do not even follow to witness the effect; neked at the truth from which every well is torn, and transpled under foot as it to display the natural purity; collected and reflected as the natural purity; collected and reflected as the temple; sometimes as unposlehed as the peo-ple; niways guided by nature and not by akt to the idea or sentiment it desires to express; poetical above all other considerations, or, rather, losing eight of the auditory and the of reasoning to utter an unexpected don of joy or grief; and giving vent to

gifted the lips of man. This incomparable description of oratory and eloquence-do you ask where you may find it? It is from Lamar-"Memoir of Bossuet"-we fear very inadequately translated.

The members of the Portland Board of Trade resolved the other night that the city should keep the streets in repair after they are once improved, and that

he city authoritales on the matter. It was stated that the me followed of keeping the streets in order by charging the expenses of the repairs to the abuttleg property-owners has re-culted in bad thoroughfares. If this committee will take the trouble to read section 382 of the new charter, it will find that hereafter the city is required to maintain improved streets and has the power to make an assessment of three-quarters of a mill for the purpose In addition to this levy, the proceeds of vehicle licenses are also to be added to the street-repair fund.

UNION, CONTRACTORS AND PUBLIC. Organized labor should move tiously along the line of demand at this time, taking care to keep within the power in the industrial life of the Nation. Every community feels its pres ence and is willing to give place to its principles. This can continue only while its demands are just as between man and man. The exhibition of a domineering spirit will be fatal to its There is a vast difference between laying the weight of a just grievance in the matter of hours and wages upon the wheels of industry and in the attempt to clog them with an unreasonable demand. In the one case popular sentiment inderses the action, in the other it distinctly disapproves of it. A word to the wise seems to be

necessary at this time. We trust that this word may come from labor leaders in this community at once, to the end ever source, may be checked and the industrial life of the community may not suffer from even temporary suspension of activity.

We take it that the desire of Portland for justice to organized labor is as strong as ever. But there is also a feeling-and it is a good deal stronger than it was a year ago-that these complaints as to hours and time and rec ognition are made not as a basis of settled conditions and steady industry, but merely as stepping-stones from on demand to another. If this impression gains general acceptance, and it is growing, public opinion will array itself against the unions, and without public opinion their chance to win is very slight. The interests of society are chiefly those of progress and improve ment. It is dangerous to interfere with

the course of building or of trade upon

any grounds except those of plain jus-

As to the merits of the present con troversy in a part of the building trades field, we shall say nothing. But as to the purposes of public sentiment, it may be well to give the building trades a hint, for they will find that foresight is better than bindsight, much cheaper and less humiliating. Public opinion in Portland will never sustain unions in an effort to recruit aid for contractors in the enterprise of forcing nonunion men into the unions. Let them get the nonunion men into unions by persuasion, if they can; but neither employers nor public will be dragooned into a fight to force any man into a union who prefers to remain out of it. Public pheion in Portland will never consent to help the unions force an employer discharge a nonunion man he wishes to keep and who has given no just cause of offense. A very timely word on this question of labor troubles was spoken by President Roosevelt Monday at Sloux Falls. He said:

A conciliation committee can do best work A conciliation committee can do best work when the trouble is in its beginning, or at least has not come to a head. When the break has actually occurred, damage has been done, and each side feels sore and angry; and it is difficult to get them together—difficult to make either forget its own wrongs and rember the rights of the other. If poss the effort at conciliation or mediation or ar bitration should be made in the earlier stages and should be marked by the wish on the part of both sides to try to come to a common agreement which each shall think in the in-terests of the other as well as of itself.

The stage of difficulty here treated by the President is precisely the stage occupied by the building trades controversy in Portland. It is of profound concern to the community that the questions at issue be settled on some basis that will be fair to both sides and that will stand without interruption the first time some single employer or employe slips a cog in his mental machinery. Things are getting to a pretty pass if the immense building operations nov under way in Portland must come to a standstill every time a contractor's or business agent's liver gets out of order With all our passion for organization, there ought to be an organization of baseball bats and ment cleavers to fall upon the necks of cranky contractors and cocky walking delegates.

## A RIGHTEOUS DECISION.

Monday's decision of the Federal Supreme court sets at rest for all time the contention between land-grant railroads and settlers upon lands within the indemnity limits of such railroads Compressed into a nutshell, the decision of the highest tribunal is this The rule by which original land grants are withdrawn from sale or location pre-emption or homestead entry does ot apply to indemnity lands. At the first trial of this suit, which was brought by the United States against the Oregon & California Ballroad Company to cancel patents besied to the company for certain lands in what is known as the "West Side" grant, Judge

Bellinger held: Beilfinger held:

There is a well-established distinction between "granted lands" and "Indemnity lands" in the construction of land grants in aid of rallreads; and the principle is firmly established that the till to lands in the indemnity class does not vest in the rallread company for the benefit of which they are contingently granted, but, in the fullest legal sense, remains in the United States, until they are actually selected and set apart, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, specifically for indemnity purposes. Until such time, the title remains in the Government, subject to its disposal at its pleasure.

to its disposal at its pleasure. This view is confirmed by the Su preme Court. Under the Federal act of July 25, 1866, as soon as a land-grant railroad had made its survey and filed its maps and plats, the Secretary of the Interior was required to withdraw alternate sections within ten miles on each side of the surveyed line. By the act of May 4, 1870, It is provided: case the quantity of ten full sections per mile cannot be withdrawn on each side of said road, with said limit of twenty miles, other lands shall be se-. to make up the deficlency." But the railroad did not make lected such selections. It simply claimed land in large quantities. It did not specify its deficiency, nor did it put its finger on certain lands and say it wanted them

'squatters' " rights. And now the United States has said to the rallroad (and there seems to be hould keep the streets in repair no way of taking it back): "You are they are once improved, and that entitled to what the law specifically contested with the Indians of the Illinois composer knew that he had at last mittee be appointed to confer with gives you, and you can't how up great plains for a foothold in that country.

in order to be made whole. It was ex-

treme in its demande and recognized

ad within the inde land to make up your deficiency, pick it out and we will give you title to it. The settlers were there ahead of you, and their rights we hold sucred. We will not allow you to tie up wide acres on the theory that some time, perhaps twenty-five or fifty years from now, you may be entitled to a part of them. A large number of men on both sides Willamette Valley are now : cure in the homes and farms they have created. The effect of the decision will probably be an early selection by the railroad company of lieu lands, which it is to be hoped will be offered for sale at a reasonable price.

SERVICE PENSIONS FOR VETERANS

Summer Post, Grand Army of the Republic, has adopted a resolution request-ing Congress to pass an act placing all surviving veterans of the Civil War on the pension rolls at a minimum of \$12 per month. It is probable that a universal service pension bill of some sort for the benefit of the veterans of the Civil War will be enacted within the next ten years. The precedent for such a pension exists today in the service pension of \$12 a month now paid to 8828 soldiers of the Mexican War and the 017 widows of Mexican War veterans This Mexican War service pension act was passed by Congress in 1887, about forty years after the close of the Mexi-can War. It is nearly forty years since the great battle of Gettysburg was won it is just thirty-eight years since the War was practically ended by Lee's surrender. Whether Congress should at once enact a general service pension bill is a question of expediency it is sure to be passed sooner or later. and as a matter of economy it is quite likely that it would not cost the Government a very large sum in addition to what is now paid pensioners and what is sure to be paid through special acts for the relief of individual soldiers whose claims have been rejected by the Pension Bureau or who deem their present pensions unequal to their mer-

The pension roll today is about 1,000, 000 strong, and of these pensioners about 975,000 are veterans of the Civil War and their widows. The number of veteran that are not now upon the pension roll probably does not exceed 200,000 men. and of these probably a good many are in easy circumstances and would not apply for a service pension. How many of the present pensioners on the rolls would be benefited by a service pension act it is impossible to estimate. Of course, those whose present pension is less than the amount of a service pen sion would be benefited by such an act to the amount of the excess of service pension over the present one. It is not likely that Congress would grant a service pension at first of more than \$8 a month, as it did with the Mexican War pension bill when first enacted in 1887. It is well, perhaps, for the veterans to begin to push this bill upon the attention of Congress, for it will in volve a long debate, and a decision will not, naturally, be reached for several years. Death is rapidly reducing the army of veterana and before a general service pension bill is enacted the burden involved by its passage will be much lighter to bear than at present. Practically without the enactment of s general service pension bill the surviving veterans are rapidly being added to the roll by special pension acts. A gen-eral service pension bill would be much because today it is the soldier who has the best political pull that through special pension acts gets his

name placed on the pension roll.

The Grand Army of the Republic for a number of years has discussed the wisdom of a general service pension act, and one of its commanders, a sound furist and an able soldier, argued on every occasion that the country would ultimately enact such a pension that it would be driven to it by the increasing number of special pension acts, which operated with unequal justice, for every veteran had not the influence necessary to obtain a statute for his individual relief. There is not the slightest hope of any decrease in the number of these special pension bills; there is not the slightest hope of any reform in the pension laws, and it probable that a general service pension law is the best way out of the difficulty. Under the act of June 27, 1890, 426,188 veteran soldiers and 148,201 widows drew pensions, as well as 15,963 callors and 6977 widows. These invalids draw pensions for disability to earn support by manual labor, disability not due to military service. Under this act so many veterans have obtained a pension that a general service pension bill would probably not greatly enlarge the number of names upon the pension roll. although it would increase the pension of many of them. Those whose present pension is less than the sum granted by the general service pension bill would be beloed by its enactment, but it would, of course, be of no advantage to other pensioners.

## THE STAR OF EMPIRE.

Eighty-one carloads of immigrants assed through Sioux City in a single day last week, on their way to the West, the greater part of them from states lying east of the Mississipp Yesterday's telegraphic reported between 2000 and 3000 foreign immigrants passing through Chicago Monday, bound for the West, Item of this kind are no longer so infrequent as to cause special comment, but th Sloux City news is supplanted by the statement that the exodus from Iowa for the West has reached such proportions that it is alarming those wh The banker of a small town in Iowa no far from Sloux City states that patrons of his bank alone have spent over \$130, 000 in the purchase of Western lands and the movement has attained such proportions that the banking associations have agreed to lend no mormoney on property outside the state limits. Notwithstanding this edict, the lowans are still buying and are coming West to improve them No man who has spent a decade or two in the pleasant climate and among the wonderful natural resources of Ore gon and Washington will truthfully admit that Iowa or any other state lying east of the Rocky Mountains can compare with this country as a place for residence or for gaining a livelihood. This is not said to the disparagement of lows. She has grown rich and populous, and will remain so, but she must now witness a shifting of population such as earlier in the history of the country was noticeable elsewhere. The descendants of the New England pioneers moved West" to New York, and in time the

Thence westward to Minnesota and Da Colorado and beyond the Rockles to the

Every inducement that beckoned the Easterners westward is as potent and reeful today as it was general and in addition the West now offers inducements that the wildest dreamers would not have thought possible a few generations ago. The youthful Iowan with the "Western fever" can say to those who seek to detain him: "Why should I tarry? In Oregon and Wash-ington are lands obtainable at one-tenth the cost of Iowa farm lands, and the producing power is greater. These lands are tributary to the ocean, giving me the world for a market. climate is milder, the death rate lower." lows, Illinois and a number of other Middle Western States, like Connecticut and Massachusetts, and the rest of the New England colonies, are ceasing to be child states, and are now taking their places with the list of mother from which the children have states gone forth and built up new homes and

There is another feature which must cause uneasiness for those who still lin-ger around the old homesteads in the Middle West. Of the thousands of newmers from the Old World, few if any pause in their flight across the country ntil they reach the far West, either in the United States or in Canada. Right of birth should and does give the native American immigrant an advantage over the foreigner, but he must act quickly or this advantage is lost and while he tarries in the older-settled portion of the country the foreigner goes into the new lands of the West and ecures the best that the country offers The far West is entering upon an era of unparalleled development, and while we nay prefer free-born Americans as im migrants in the Northwest, if they are slow in coming we shall gladly welcome the honest, hard-working foreigner who is coming with a rush.

The death of the Kentucky trotter Beuzetta, 2:06%, as announced in yestelegraphic news, will be special interest to Oregon horsemen for the reason that the mark 2:06% was secured in a heart-breaking contest with Klamath, the greatest trotter ever foaled in Oregon. The race where Beuzetta secured her record was at Roches ter in 1896, and Klamath, after going through the big meetings of the West-ern circuit and nearly the length of the Grand circuit with an unbroken line of victories behind him, was given his first defeat of the season by Beuzetta. It was the result of this race that brought from Ed Geers, Beuzetta's driver, the greatest harness horseman in America, the following tribute to Klamath's prowess: "You may beat that Oregon gelding once in a while, but there is not a horse on earth that can beat him two races out of three when he is right, and when they beat him at all they must keep putting their heats in right around 2:07 all the time in order to do it." Old age has retired the veteran Klamath from the turf, and scientific breeding and development, constantly improving sulkies and tracks and other advantages are gradually cutting down records. The place of the Oregon gelding in racehorse history is secure, however, and in that history he will live as one of the greatest horses of his day and

The energy with which the Irish peo ple rise to meet the opportunity that the late government grant of \$925,000 annually for the development and their ul-timate ownership of lands presents is both gratifying and tremendous. genuine industrial revival has already taken place in Ireland, furnishing proof -if proof of so plain and natural a characteristic of human nature were needed of the thrift and courage that is born of legitimate self-interest. In the reflection of past conditions under which the Irish peasantry have struggled there is a degree of pathos in this eager response to opportunity; in the light of future possibilities there is gladness and hope in it. The Irish people prove their kinship with all home-loving, large hearted, loyal people in this awakened energy. Give them something to work for, some promise of fullness from the work of their hands, some incentive to thrift, and they speedily prove them selves not only energetic, but cheerful, uncomplaining workers. these features from their endeavor and it is at best but a grudged offering even to their own pressing necessities.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has signed the bill passed by the Legislature now in session at Harrisburg prohibiting the sale in that state of cigarettes or cigarette paper to any person under 21 years of age. A similar this state has long been a dead letter. Parents do not take the trouble to see that it is enforced. Perhaps, being busy with other things, they do not care any thing about it. Possibly some of them share the belief of their stunted, mistaken boys that smoking cigarettes is a manly accomplishment. At all events, no pretense is made of enforcing the law. Perhaps the parents of Pennsylvania will make a better record in this line. Let us hope so,

One Grange has been heard from as favoring a referendum vote on the Lewis and Clark Fair appropriation. The public-spirited members of this organization in other localities, who have so generously indorsed the Fair and disapproved of the referendum upon the question of the appropriation as needeasiy embarraming to its progress, should labor with these, their brethern of Maple Lane Grange, to the end that they may right their record upon a matter that appeals to the patriotic pride and enterprise of the people, not only of Oregon, but of the entire Northwest.

The declaration by Mr. Carnegie of his purpose, or at least his desire, to die poor is a matter of public record. The Atlanta Constitution sees in the fact that he pays his taxes without protesting against the assessment an indicaof the great steel magnate to die fa-

mous also. It is hard to believe that the Government will continue on its unrelenting course relative to the administration of public land business in Oregon. Has it not heard from Roseburg and The Dailes that everything that is is right and all officials are the personification of goodness and efficiency?

New York Sun Wagner had just given the first re-earsal of "Die Gotterdammerung." "It's fine!" cried his friends, enthulast.

cally. "The best college yell THE RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

The growth of the rural mail service is one of the most remarkable of the recent developments of American life. Beginning half a down years ago in the form of an experiment and in its earlier career expanding so slowly that up to 1856 it had not advanced beyond the experi-mental stage, it has almost suddenly branched out into a universal service closely connected with the convenience and interest of a very large proportion of the general population of the country. On the 15th of March the number of routes in actual operation was 14,006, and it is estimated by the postal department officials that by the end of the fiscal year-July 1-the number will have incres by natural growth to 15,000. At the session of Congress recently ended a spe-cial appropriation of \$12,500,000 was made for the support of the service; and with this sum it is expected to increase the number of routes to 20,000 during the fiscal year of 1908-4. At the present time something more than 14,000 carriers are regularly employed in the service, and in another year the number will have increased

Various estimates have been made respecting the number of persons interested in this service in the sense of having their letters and papers delivered at the hands of its agents, and it is the opinion of the department heads at Washingto that not less than 15,000,000 persons are already directly affected.

A very remarkable fact in con

with the rural delivery is that it has in the brief period of its existence developed a trained and responsible corps of men who perform its laborious routine with both faithfulness and intelligence. It is a work which, in the greater part of the country where the Winter weather is sovere, puts high qualities of capability and character as well as of physical hardihood to the test. Not more than 50 men in the service have had more than three rears' training in it; but out of more than 14,000 only 37 have been removed during the past year for inefficiency or other cause, while the total separations from the service have been less than one-half of 1 per cent, a record which excels that of any other branch of the postal service. It is boasted by the officials at Washington that the organization of such a service in so brief a time would not have been possible in any other country, for nowhere else among the body of the people could there have been found an equal body of men of sufficient intelligence to take up an entirely new business calling for a considerable measure of education combined with native intelligence and initiative. No better test, it is argued, of the capabilities of the country to provide a large number of reliable and technically competent men could be conceived; and the records of the service are pointed to as illustrating the merit of the American system of training the body of the people for the duties of citizenship

Although the pay of the rural delivery s small, it has from the start attracted good men; and since it has been included in the "classified" list, it attracts men who declare their purpose to make it a life work.

All carriers are now selected by competitive examination, and the applications average four for each route. In a number of case more than 30 applications have been filed. At a special examination reently conducted at Austin, Tex., 32 candidates appeared, and every one of them passed with high marks. They all bore certificates of good character, and an swered all the requirements, hence the board was embarrassed, and could only recommend the appointment of the applicant who received the highest rating for scholarship

The rural delivery service, with 14,065 outes, now covers more than 300,000 square miles, or nearly one-third of the available territory of the United States. It will require the employment of 27,000 carriers in addition to those now in service to complete the extension through the entire 800 000

The Pacific Northwest has not made the

most of its opportunities in connection with the rural mail service. Oregon has at this time 22 routes, while there are only two applications now pending in the de partment at Washington. In spite of the fact that the establishment of routes may be secured practically for the asking, there is nothing doing, while at the sam time the department is fairly buried under a flood of applications from other states. In Washington there are 55 established routes, with five applications pending One difficulty in connection with extension of the service in the Northwest, especially in the grain districts east of the Cascade Mountains, is the great size of the farms, which makes it difficult to lay out route, of the specified length of 25 miles that will serve 100 families, as the rules of the service require. In Umatilla County, early in the period of the service, when it was still upon an experimental basis, two or three routes were established for a les number of families than the required 100. the purpose being to discover if the mail service would promote settlement of the country. The results have not been satisfactory, and there is said to be danger that the routes will be abandoned. Any community which can show a basis of 100 families within a circuit of 25 miles

will have no difficulty in setting a route and the surprising thing is that so many districts take no steps to obtain an advantage which may thus be had free of expense.

Attractive, Interesting, Hospitable Springfield, Mass., Republican. Oregon has lost one of her most useful and honored citizens in the death of ex-

and honored citizens in the death of ex-Senator Heary Winslow Corbett, which occurred at Portland on Tuesday. Mr. Corbett was born at Westboro, in this state. 76 years ago, but was taken as a child by his parents to Washington Coun-ty. N. Y., where he was educated in the academy at Cambridge and began active life as a country storekeeper's clerk in the same town. He went to New York in 1844 to be a clerk in a mercantile house, and in 1850 shipped a stock of goods around Cape Horn to Portland, Or., where he settied and remained as merchant and bank er for the rest of his life. He was suc cessful in business, and gathered a large fortune, which he administered with a generous, broad-minded regard for the interests of his city and state. He gave liberally to all the philanthropic and edu-cational institutions of Portland, and al-ways exercised a potent influence in be-half of good government. He represented his state creditably in the United States interests of his city and state. He gave his state creditably in the United States Senate as a Republican from 1887 to 1873, and was repeatedly supported by the best elements of his party for another term. In 1897, when the Oregon Legislature falled to elect a Senator, he was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy, but the Senate refused to admit him, holding that the Governor had no authority to appoint under such circumstances. Mr. Corbett was an attractive, interesting and hospitable man in his personal relations. last His second wife was

SOME SPASMS OF HONESTY.

the Tri The problem of municipal gove ould be easier if influential citize oters would only agree to practice oters would only agree to practice little common honesty with themselves and one another. A city honest in its We are not talking about the honest honesty that is opposed to hypocrisyellectual honesty.

Two cities, separated by the whole width of the continent, are attracting gen eral attention by spasmodic demonstr tions of common honesty in city govern ment. The grand jury of Seattle, has indicted-it is said for political reas ons connected with failure to pay expected campaign contributions and three or four other city officials for malfeasance in office, The malfeasance consisted in not executing the city or dinances against gambling and fornication. The Mayor and others laugh at th indictments. He says that he was elected on the platform of a wide-open city; that he would have lost the votes the business men, had they expected him to enforce these ordinances, and that they would run him out of town if he did

tement might be made for most cities in the country; it must be especially true of a city rescued and maintained by the Alaska outfitting trade and the loose spendings of the successful gold-seekers. As reasonably look for control of human appetites by law in one of the mining camps of Bret Harte's earlier novels as in the Seattle of the Klondike and Cape Nome boom. Yet to sound moral and ntellectual standards, those mining camps were more worthy of respect than the civilized towns of which Seattle is only one example. Their people were no hypo-crites. They did not spread on the record moral laws they would not have forced. They did not compel Mayors fore election to promise to ignore the laws they had passed. Is there any city in the country that can throw the first

stone at Seattle for doing this?
The honest spasm of Mayor Humes,
Seattle, finds its match in another cand outburst, unprovoked by criminal stress and transpiring, of all places in the world, in Stamford, Conn. Stamford was an or-iginal Puritan town. It belonged to the straighter colony of New Haven, which made the original "blue laws." The city ordinances of Stamford are still as ceru-lean as Italian skies or Minnesota lakes. But no one has thought of enforcing them for years. The town is a New York suburb, and waxes fat on the careless sp ings of cottage and yacht-owning stock-brokers, as Seattle nourishes itself on the Argonautic droppings. It would as soon think of rejecting their trade and taxes as of interfering with their pleasures.

The blue laws must never be enforced; but the violation of them must never be mentioned. This mortal sin has been communicated by a candid young fellow, lately graduated from Princeton and just elected Mayor of Stamford, and the breach of propriety has set the city burning like a hive of angry bees. Mayor Leeds happened to mention, in the most casual way in the world, that he should ignore the Sunday and other "blue" laws, because that was the understanding before elec-It is not denied that this was the party, nor that everybody knew and approved it. But the town is horrifled by the confession. The Mayor is assailed in the newspapers, the publis thunder at him, and the W. C. T. U. is organizing a popular campaign to drive him out of public life.

From the point of view of politics, it undeniable that Mayor Leeds has made is undeniable that Mayor Leeds has made a bad break. Mayor Low had to make the same promise to the Germans before he could be elected Mayor of Greater New York; but he did not gossip about it after election. He and Bishop Potter and all the other wise men found far better reasons for not enforcing the Sun-day ordinances in New York than that he had been obliged to promise not to do so in order to secure his election. But really, is the candor of Mayor Leeds, of Stamford, and Mayor Humes, of Seattle, Stamford, and Mayor Humes, of Seattle going to do any harm in the end? There no telling what big results of rational form in the whole method and principles every-day honesty.

### Gorman's Hand Alrendy Visible. Chicago Inter Ocean,

It may be set down as an axiom that ever the Benate profess spect for the constitutional rights of the House it is merely because powerful in-fluences in the Senate are seeking an ex-cuse for doing nothing. And in all these amendments may be traced the adroit hand of the new Democratic leader in the Senate, the Hon. A. P. Gorman. To refer this treaty to the House means to refer this freaty to the House means to give those members of the House who think tariff revision a popular issue an opportunity further to delay relief to Cuba and benefit to American producers by raising a general tariff debate. It means, unless there be an extra session, delay un-til December or later, too late for this year's sugar crop, and the probable bank-ruptcy of Cuba. Worst of all, it would rove to the American people that the Re-ublican party in the Senate has been wisted around the fingers of the Hon. A. P. Gorman. Whatever Mr. Gorman's P. Gorman. Whatever Mr. Gorman omerits, he is the worst possible leader for the Republican party. If the Republican Senators are wise for their party they will listen to Mr. Gorman's advice and then do the opposite.

President's Traveling Companion.

Boston Herald.

President Roosevelt will have a most charming and interesting traveling companion in John Burroughs on his visit to the Yellowstone Park, where nature is to be seen in all her grandeur and glory.

Mr. Burroughs' title of poet-naturalist is a deserved one. The latest specimen of a deserved one. The latest specimen of his quality in the naturalist's role is to be found in the current issue of the At-lantic Monthly, where Mr. Burroughs shows up the mistakes of some of the popular writers and lecturers on natural history. Mr. Burroughs calls their work sham natural history and is otherwise rather severe on those whom he takes in and. It is rather savage and mercil that Mr. Burroughs is a master of hi

## The Odorous Buffalo Tragedy.

Montgomery Advertiser.

Judging from what can be learned reading the papers, there has rarely be a more unsavory affair even among the high-fivers of New York City than this Burdick case. The effort to find who among them all is guilty is working from and in the wrong direction. The tives and other officials would have much shorter job if they set to work ascertain which or who is innecent. T one fact that seems to stand out in bold relief is that the whole affair akably disgraceful.

## Facts for Arbitration.

Boston Post. The end of every industrial contest is reached through conference and mutual concession. Seldom, if ever, is one side absolutely right and the other altogether in the wrong. Let the battle be waged as stoutly as may be, when at last pe comes it always comes through recipro agreement, not by force of conquest.

## Their Motives Are Questionable.

Buffalo Express.

The efforts of certain European bankers to lead Venezuela the money to pay the claims of the powers are a little peculiar in view of the bad reputation as a debtor which the powers have given Venezuela. Are they trying to secure ground for another demonstration some time in the future?

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The only way to kill the beef trust is

Most of the Spring fever has turned out

to be rhoumatism this year. The President's reception committee

Setter take him in a balloon. Mr. Simon hasn't published a letter for nearly a week. What's up? Going to impeach Emperor William next?

"What were his last words?" "Oh, the poor fellow didn't have any. His wife was with him to the last."

It would seem that Binger will have to day better than the Browns if he wants o make a home run to Washington.

It's a pity the people with the highoard fence didn't build it where it would hide some unsightly down-town shack

The Wells-Fargo people think a lot 100 feet square is not big enough for a hotel building. The Call building in San Fran-

cisco is 79 feet square.

The German Emperor's friendship for Poulteney Bigelow was of no use in the recent divorce proceedings with Mrs. Bige low. Even the power of an Empeor has

Some of the old portraits hanging in Windsor Caetle have been found in a nutilated condition. They are likenesses of royal personages, and the authorities are unable to find the vandal. It was probably one of the old queens who didn't realize how ugly she was when the picture was painted.

Some years ago Lord William Nevill, son of the Marquis of Abergavenny, was found guilty in an English court of law of a very contemptible fraud on a friend and sentenced to five years in fail. His term expired recently and he has written a book about his experiences, "Penal Servitude."

The soldiers of the French army are afflicted generally with tuberculosis and the deaths from typhoid fever are very numerous. The general health of the French army has been poor, and there must be some reason for it, as 29,000 men have died there from disease since the treaty of Frankfort, while the German army has lost only 13,000.

Acting Governor Wood, of Yukon Territory, has recommended to the Canadian government the construction of a sigantic governmental system of water-works to serve the streams in the Klondike camp. A surveying expedition is now in the field looking into the matter, and it is estimated that the work will cost \$4,000,000, and call for 61 miles of ditch and flume and 120 miles of lateral steel pipe. The supply, if built, will start at the head of the Klondike and distribute from Nome.

Not long ago a newspaper man called on Secretary Hay to question him regarding a diplomatic incident of rather a delicate international character. The newspaper man was afraid he might make some injudicious inquiry and said: "Mr. Secretary, I am afraid my questions are not quite proper from a diplomatic standpoint." "My dear sir," answered Secretary Hay, "I don't think any qu tion you may ask will be improper. The impropriety depends on whether or not

Lord Cromer, speaking at Khartoum of the needs of the country, recently said: "Except sand, crocediles and hippopotami, of all of which there appears to ne a somewhat superabundant supply, there is not enough of anything in the Soudan." If the region could exchange its hippopotami, crocodiles and sand for railways, educated natives and "dust"to use a colloquialism for money-it would be reasonably happy and prosperous. This is the problem of commerce the world over-to exchange what one does not want for what one needs.

When Prince Henry of Prussia visited the United States about a year ago persons were surprised to see how quickly he picked up American idiom. To those associated with him it was not uncommon to hear such phrases as "made him feel Hke 30 cents," "out o' sight" and "go 'way back and sit down," with other current slang of twelve months ago, ome trippingly from the royal lips. Therefore, no one here is surprised to learn that in speaking of a statement he deems particularly direct and appropriate Baron Von Sternberg frequently says: "It's bully-right off the bat."

The Fire of Driftwood.

Henry W. Longfellow.

(This poem was inspired by a visit to Devereux Farm, near Marblehead, Mass., in September, 1846. The poet's description of the visit is as follows: "A delicious drive was taken across the beautiful sand to Devereux by the seasife. What a delicious scene! The ocean in the sunshine changing from the sliver hus to the thin waves upon the beach, through the lighter and the deeper green, to a rich purple in the horizon. With several friends we-cealled the times past and the days when we recalled the times past and the days when we were at Nahand. The Devereux Farm is by Whose windows, looking o'er the bay,

An easy entrance, night and day Not far away we saw the port.
The strange, old-fashioned, silent town
The lighthouse, the dismantled fort,
The wooden houses, quaint and brown.

Gave to the sea breeze damp and cold

We sat and talked until the night, Descending, filled the little room: Our faces faded from the sight, Our voices only broke the gloom.

We spake of many a vanished scene Of what we once had thought and a Of what had been, and might have be And who was changed, and who was And all that fills the hearts of friends,

When first they feel, with secret pain, Their lives thenceforth have separate ends, And never can be one again. The first elight swerving of the heart.
That words are powerless to express.
And leave it still unsaid in part.
Or say it in too great excess.

The very tones in which we spake Had something strange. I could sething strange, I could but mark; The leaves of memory seemed to make A mournful rustling in the dark.

Oft died the words upon our lips, As suddenly, from out the of the wreck of stranded ships The flames would leap and then expire.

And, as their spiendor finshed and failed, We thought of wrecks upon the main. Of ships dismasted, that were balled And sent no answer back again.

The windows, rattling in their frames, The ocean, roaring up the beach, The gusty blast, the bickering flames, All mingled vaguely in our speech

Until they made themselves a part Of fancies feating through the brain, The long-lost ventures of the heart, That send no answers back again.

O flames that glowed! O hearts that yearned! They were indeed too much akin— The driftwood fire without that burned. The thoughts that burned and glowed within.