

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy and cooler.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 69 deg.; minimum temperature, 49 deg.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1903.

THE PROBLEM AND THE DUTY.

The New York World, in an article on "Democratic Ideals," says: "To hold some wretched, far-away islands by military brute force is undemocratic, since the people there, if not equal American citizens, can only be held by the sword."

In statements of this kind the notable feature is the tone of political cant. We have not, nor are we to have, any "serfs and slaves."

We can give the unions a piece of advice that is worth more to them than all the fine theories of dreamers. It is this: Stick to your contracts.

WILL NOT DOWN.

And still the flies drop into the ointment. Now it is the weather that is taking a hand in landing a few body-blows on "poor old Portland."

Mr. Harriman ran out of rails or nerves before he completed his railroad system in the Pacific Northwest, and we are for the present shut out of the Clearwater, the Big Bend, Central Oregon, the Willowa country and a few other rich districts where people would like to trade with us.

ers, but whenever he fails to fill one of his Oriental steamers sailing from Seattle he is forced to call on Portland for freight, and our merchants are in the language of the street, "there with the goods" every time.

It is to be noted that capital becomes timid and goes into hiding whenever labor troubles appear, but in spite of the strike there is no apparent limit to the amount of money available for the big three, four, five and six-story brick buildings which are in course of construction all over the city.

This practical and incontrovertible evidence of solidity and progress under adverse circumstances is only additional testimony to the good judgment of the men who have stood by Portland's banks.

IT IS UNCERTAINTY THAT KILLS.

Mr. Darrow may be a good lawyer, but Chamberlain does not know about organized labor who fill a large volume. The man who talks about labor going into politics is a very unsafe guide for workmen, or trusts either.

Whoever counsels united political action on the part of any group of workmen is planning under the suspicion of laying a trap for office. Political action should be based on political beliefs, and not on class prejudices or class interests.

It is just so with labor. It is a matter of very little consequence whether a boss carpenter pays \$3 or \$3.50 a day. He will bid that much higher or lower on a job, and the owner will pay it.

There is one thing business can't stand and that is uncertainty. A man must know when he figures on a house what his labor is going to cost him. He can adjust everything to the wages if he knows in time; but if he doesn't know, he can't be bothered having to raise wages two or three times to different sets of mechanics before he is through with the building.

Experience is unanimous on this score. Where are the unions that live in peace with their employers and in the working man's own world? They are in the trades that have learned through bitter tribulation that it pays to keep your word.

The terrible floods now sweeping over the Mississippi Valley are the result of the destruction of Nature's reservoirs for storing moisture at the headwaters of hundreds of brooks and rivers that have contributed to this mighty volume of water now leaving a wake of death and disaster over a vast area of country.

may some day produce similar results in the Pacific Northwest, but the liability of danger will be lessened here on account of the length of the rivers as compared with the Mississippi and the Missouri.

THE BEST TARIFF.

No man need pretend to be a free-trader who can say, as Mr. Chamberlain says, that when in times of depression foreigners dispose of their wares in Great Britain at bargain-counter prices, the island becomes a "dumping-ground."

At length the significance of Mr. Chamberlain's utterance is dawned upon the world of political economy. It means a challenge to free trade in its citadel. It means that the most alert, most resourceful, most interesting, and perhaps we may safely say also the most invincible of English statesmen, has called in question the theory of trade which has been accepted all but unanimously for fifty years by the world of educated men.

It is the most important element of all, which is the human nature, that there are moods and caprices, of prejudice against and predilections for, of habits inveterate and manners imperfect, of sentiment, of hero-worship, of superstition, of enslavement to tradition, and even to phrases of empty meaning but of potent memory.

The best tariff for a people is the tariff they want. Which is best—meritocracy, oligarchy or democracy? A tariff says it may be one or the other, but that one is best which the given people at the given time is best fitted for.

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AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES.

The evolution and operation of American parties under the Constitution are made the subject of a recently published book by Professor J. A. Woodburn.

The warm Southern blood that courses through the veins of the Chileans is near the boiling-point again, and an American ship is also being ordered to be taken down and the interests of the Americans who might get pushed around in the impending fracas.

Striking the Average.

It is a Jew that at a bargain, because a bargain is the only outlet for his combative nature. His sense of intellectuality and passion for the more delicate arts arise similarly from his political disqualifications.

HANNA'S CREEPY PLATFORM.

Minneapolis Tribune. The last public utterance of President McKinley declared plainly for a change in tariff policy, though not for abandonment of the protective principle, in order to meet the changed industrial and commercial conditions of the country.

One party, Federalist, Whig, Republican, has favored broad construction, the growth of National power, the extensive exercise of force and authority in the enforcement of social order and tranquility. The other party, Anti-Federalist, Democratic-Republican, Democratic, has held to strict construction, the rights of the states, and the largest individual and social liberty for the greatest number.

Fascinating Figures.

London Times. Here you have some interesting examples of figure juggling:

12246789 times 2 plus 10 equals 111111111
12246789 times 3 plus 10 equals 222222222
12246789 times 4 plus 10 equals 333333333

Successful German Lines.

The rapid development of German shipping companies seems to have been followed by something like a pause, preparatory, no doubt, to renewed activity.

Electric vs. Steam Railways.

Baltimore Sun. It will perhaps surprise some persons to learn that electric railways carry eight times as many passengers as steam railways.

A Lost Opportunity.

A prominent clergyman was wont to remark that there was no incident in his life he could not live down. Whenever he heard the tale related, while perusing his studies at the academy, he helped Sunday services at a nearby chapel a few miles in the country.

Too Plain for Dispute.

The positive assertions in New York that the saloon-keepers continue to pay blackmail to the police despite the full announcement of the city administration that they would not be tolerated, are as secure relief and punishment of the police officials engaged by making the facts known to the Mayor are one of the phenomena of the character of the New York police.

Small Talk and Its Uses.

The main office of small talk is to avoid those distressing pauses which occur when the attention of the life of the party is momentarily diverted from himself or herself, as the case may be. It is not designed to convey any meaning or really to entertain anybody, for if it did other things would be done.

Lacemakers Not Allowed to Land.

London Daily News. Some time ago a Philadelphia firm applied to the Federal Government for permission to bring in a number of lacemakers from Europe, and the government refused to issue a license for the importation of lacemakers to be employed in this country.

The Jew.

A Jew is hard at a bargain, because a bargain is the only outlet for his combative nature. His sense of intellectuality and passion for the more delicate arts arise similarly from his political disqualifications.

TRIBUTES TO EMERSON.

Senator Hoar's Address at Concord. He has made the best statement in all secular literature of the doctrine of immortality. He shows us that the world and the body are not the only things that count; but inexpressible, without it. Yet he makes no absolute affirmation, except that we shall be immortal if that be best.

On Luxury and Marriage.

President Eliot's Address at Boston. In Emerson's day, luxury in the present world is as happily enjoyed by the masses as it is in the past.

Abolishing an Old Holiday.

Philadelphia Ledger. One of Brooklyn's most cherished institutions is "Anniversary day," when school children parade with the scores of thousands parade to the parks for a day's outing.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Where? Old Bol is working overtime. There is lots of hot air about this warm spell.

The weather man has certainly got it in for us.

We are simply getting a touch of what we may expect in the future.

What is left of the Morrison-street pavement will now proceed to melt.

We shall now begin to hear about "the hottest day in Portland" from some old residents.

The annual crop of "rock-the-boat" articles is about due with the coming of the boating season.

The highwayman who held up a woman for 25 cents ran about as big a risk as a human being can.

Mr. Puter, who is said to be mixed up in the timber steal, has the peculiar initials A. D. Maybe he feels so.

If the poet who thinks he has a nice, sweet poem on June would only breathe about seven gulps of our dust-laden atmosphere, maybe he would quit.

A policeman has been freed because of "political activity." A man with any activity, political or otherwise, ought to be kept on the force for a good example.

The Austrian treasury was in a deplorable condition when the war with France broke out in 1859, and when Baron Bruck, who had charge of the national finances at the time, was called upon to respond to the toast, "May God Defend the Army," the minister replied that his "fervent prayer was that God would, for he himself would not be able to do so much longer. The Baron found his task even more difficult, evidently, than he expected, for he took his own life before the war was over.

A sporting writer relates that when Peter Maher was knocked out by Fitzsimmons at Langtry, Tex., his seconds had considerable trouble in reviving him, and when they finally brought him around his trainer, Peter Lowery, who was in his corner, began to console him. "Never mind, Peter," Lowery is reported to have said when the boxer had sufficiently recovered to notice things. "You made a good fight and have lost no friends. Maheer looked at Lowery for a second and shouted, so everybody at the ringside could hear him: "Arrah, will yer build yer head? Can't ye see O'M instab'le?"

During Ethel Barrymore's last engagement in Chicago she was invited to an after-the-performance dinner. The hostess and a number of her guests occupied boxes at the play. Among these was a rather fresh young man, who thought he had made an impression on Miss Barrymore. He kept his eyes on her throughout the play and tried hard to create the impression that she noticed it. At the dinner he had the good fortune to sit next to the actress. When an opportunity came he remarked to her under the cover of a paragon of animals. On his own ground he surpasses the lion in magnanimity, the fox in acumen, the parrot in repartee, the monkey in versatility, the ant in thrift, the fish in self-control, the spider in all that goes to make up a valued member of society. I dare say that, if all the facts were known, man is more of an absolute success than a mule!"

King Edward has given orders for the abandonment of his private band, one of the ancient features of his court. In its present form it was established by Charles II, and some authorities assert that a "stato" band existed in the days of Queen Elizabeth. It is composed of 34 musicians, under the direction of Sir Walter Parrish, and the number of its members are the best that can be secured in England, and this is the real cause of its dissolution. Unlike his mother, King Edward does not care much for state concerts by his own musicians, and since his accession the duties of the band have been confined chiefly to the playing of light music, including ragtime, during royal dinners. This regard as undignified and the King regards as extravagant. The same music can be played as well by fewer and less notable musicians.

Conan Doyle was once asked why he didn't establish a detective agency and employ Sherlock Holmes tactics in conducting the business. "For the very good reason," he replied, "that all the knots Sherlock Holmes untied were of my own tying. I should fall if I undertook to unravel other people's knots." "I believe that on one occasion you have done so, though I was in a tailor shop when a rather unattractive man was selecting a pair of trousers. He flatted objected to striped goods, and I got the idea that he was an ex-convict. To satisfy myself I visited one or two prisons, and sure enough found the man's picture in the rogues' gallery. Doubtless he had had enough of striped wearing apparel."

FLEASANDRIES OF PARAGUAIERS.

"I think I'll call this automobile 'Tammany.' 'Why?' 'Because it's such a perfect machine.'—Puck.

We have it on reliable authority that, as soon as Georgia is done layin'-by cotton, she's going to whirl in and write the Great American Novel—Atlanta Constitution.

"I suppose," said the city girl, "that you have no acquires in your 'curb.' 'No, my name," said the village count, "but we are going to put in electric lights next Fall."—Chicago Daily News.

"A pain I have from eating jam." Said philosopher Mary Jane: "But, how glad you are to eat it. I am. My bed has got a counterpane!"—Harvard Lampoon.

Householder—That last butter Mr. Creamer was a little strong, wasn't it? I found out before I sent it. So I told Mr. Wize to give you short weight. It was the best thing we could do, you know, under the circumstances. The housewife—You're right. I'll be sure to tell the boys, 'Cause they'd been content with an eight-pound one, but you've succeeded in becoming an employer."—Chicago Evening Post.

An Unreasonable Rule—Governor Bailey, of Kansas, announces that he will appoint no one to office who has not a bank account. This rule is as unreasonable as a law that every man to get back accounts till after they are appointed to office?—Providence Journal.

"We come," said the orator, "to bury Caesar, not to praise him." There was a movement to the front. "One moment, Mark!" he exclaimed; "this funeral can't go on until Uncle-Thomas Elocutus joins the victors!"—Baltimore News.