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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 67; minimum temperature, 51; precipitation, trace.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers; southerly winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1.

THE "HOLD-UP" AT PANAMA.

In Colombia there is a gang of politicians who are trying to "hold up" the United States for more money. That is evident; that is certain. Yet by the treaty, the United States will be obliged to pay Colombia $10,000,000 at once for the right to build the canal, and $250,000 annually as rental, these rental payments to begin nine years after the payment of the first-named sum.

These are larger sums than the United States should have offered. But they do not meet the rapacity nor satisfy the greed of the politicians of Colombia. Here, they conclude, is an opportunity they never will have again; and they wish to make the most of it.

We are to pay $40,000,000 to the French company. Then $10,000,000 to the bogus and bankrupt government of Colombia. Then, after nine years, $250,000 per annum for the lease; and finally, at the expiration of ninety-nine years, the canal is to revert to the Colombian government. It is a bargain we have no reason to be proud of, and we ought never to consent to be "held up" for more.

The rapacious politicians of Colombia, who are trying to get more money out of the United States, say they "do not oppose construction of the canal by the United States, but they want fair treatment." What would they call fair treatment? We have conceded already far more than we ought. We never should, never will, consent to give more. Nicaragua is an alternative. Indeed, it was our first and natural choice. We never should have turned away from Nicaragua.

But the State of Panama wants the canal, and is in the ferment of inchoate rebellion at the opposition of the rapacious politicians of the other states or departments who are obstructing the project and endangering its success. From English sources and from many others comes the statement that Panama is ready to declare her independence and to make terms on her own account with the United States. We shall be wary about a proceeding of this sort; yet it may be a possible solution. It is clear that in Colombia we are dealing with a purely irresponsible and piratical set who are not contending for the welfare of their country, but for their own particular profit. Since they seldom have a chance to hold up a rich traveler on the highway of the world, they insist on making the most of this opportunity.

To their counter proposition for more money, the United States should make reply by returning to the negotiation with Nicaragua, which was so mistakenly abandoned. To the robbers of Colombia there should be no thought of paying more than has been agreed upon hitherto, and that was an excessive sum.

"CORRUPT AND CONTENTED."

Lincoln Steffens, who has treated in successive numbers of McClure's Magazine "The Shame of Minneapolis," "The Shamelessness of St. Louis" and "Pittsburg, a City Ashamed," continues the story of municipal corruption in the current number of that periodical in an article entitled, "Philadelphia: Corrupt and Contented." Threading this labyrinth of municipal dishonesty through the mazes of "boss rule," in which names of National prominence figure and facts of stupendous significance peer out from unexpected places, one is conscious only of amazement at the disclosures. Immigration, that has been blamed for the disgraceful governmental condition of some other American cities, escapes censure here, since "Philadelphia, with 47 per cent of the population native-born and of native-born parents, is the most American of our greater cities." Summing up, this writer says that "all of our municipal governments are more or less bad, and all of our people are optimists. Philadelphia is simply the most corrupt and the most contented."

Politics—ring politics, boss politics—this is the governing force. Matthew S. Quay, so Mr. Steffens declares, is the proprietor of Pennsylvania and the ruler of Philadelphia, just as was William Penn the great proprietor. With bosses appointed from the United States Senate, vice has been cultivated and protected, the graft has been made safe, even when extended to the public schools, and "macing," a form of high blackmailing, has extended to the street railway systems, involving the city in the loss of millions of dollars in franchises that have been given away.

All of this and much more is stated boldly, and evidently without fear of contradiction. Yet through it all, and in spite of it all, Philadelphia, "corrupt and contented," retains the title of the "City of Brotherly Love," and serenely ignores facts that state and figures that prove the venality of her rulers. The people, irritated into exasperation, have in times past tried "reform," only to become disgusted with reformers, and at present prefer to go their accustomed way unvexed by thoughts of civic virture, leaving municipal affairs to the "bosses."

For this condition Mr. Steffens does not offer a remedy, except as the facts which he unfolds may become remedial through the law of suggestion. He simply states facts with clearness of detail, prints figures that support them and illustrates them with the portraits of "men who do things," leaving the result to an enlightened public conscience or public indifference, as the case may be.

THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD.

The facts already presented by The Oregonian show clearly that the Democratic party, since its foundation under Jefferson, can make no claim to a clean bill of health in the matter of official administrative corruption in politics. Jackson's and Van Buren's Administrations graduated more rascals than Grant's or Hayes', ten to one. The Government during Grant's eight years did not suffer from whisky frauds to anything near the extent that it did from Government defaulters and shameless mail-contract robbers under Jackson. Swartwout, the Collector of the Port of New York, was retained in office for two years after it was known to every member of Jackson's Cabinet that he was a defaulter to the Government. In 1835 a great "American Land Company" was formed, consisting of Government officers and their friends. Its articles of association were written by Jackson's Attorney-General, B. F. Butler, whose brother was placed at its head as president, while John Van Buren, the son of Vice-President Van Buren, was among its stockholders and operators. This land company did not settle the lands, but, with their specie certificates, which were receivable at the Land Office in payment for lands, they could buy all Chicago and the surrounding country, when Yankee buyers, with their pockets full of Eastern notes, worth more than specie, could not buy an acre. Other speculators were compelled to buy of this "American Land Company," which did not settle their lands, but held the purchases at high prices for the farmers' sons to buy and settle.

Within twelve months, 24,000,000 acres of the public lands were bought on speculation, much of it by this combination of Democratic officeholders and other harpies. Bank presidents, cashiers and directors of "pet banks" who enjoyed the Government deposits joined the monopoly. Postmaster-General Kendall refused to pay an account of the famous mail contractors, Stockton and Stokes, because he had satisfied himself it was fraudulent. The Democratic Congress was appealed to for relief by Stockton and Stokes, and at once passed an act authorizing the Solicitor of the Treasury, a friend of the contractors from Maryland, to settle the claim. He, without calling on the Postmaster-General for any information, allowed not only the whole ambunt originally claimed, but about $40,000 in addition. The Postmaster-General protested, but the Solicitor-General ordered the claim paid. Senator Grundy, of Tennessee, chairman of the postoffice committee, supported the payment of the outrageous award. President Van Buren rebuked the Postmaster-General for his stubborn resistance, and a Senate resolution declaring that the award ought to be paid was passed by that body, and finally the award was paid by order of the court. Thus Stockton and Stokes secured payment of $160,000, not one cent of which, says Van Buren's Postmaster-General, was due them in law or equity. Out of more than sixty receivers of public moneys, fifty defaulted to the amount of $825,675.28.

Under the Democratic Administration of President Tyler came the defalcation of Collector Hoyt, of New York City, the successor of Swartwout, to the amount of $500,000. The awards to the Cherokees and Choctaws, under the treaties of 1835 and 1846, gave opportunities for Democratic officers to rob the Indians of $7,658,527. Colonel Richard M. Johnson, Van Buren's Vice-President, assessed $18,000 fees for fraudulent collections. Some $3,000,000 of this booty was stolen from the United States, but the Indian removal furnished an opportunity to rob the savages and their "Great White Father" at the same time. John B. Floyd, Secretary of War under President Buchanan, embezzled, through his nephew, who was custodian of the Indian trust bonds held by the Secretary of the Interior, $872,000, and Floyd's acceptance of drafts drawn by a firm of Army contractors against unearned money cost the Government $6,137,395. Instead of investing the funds held in trust for the Indians in bonds of the United States, as provided by law, the several Democratic Administrations invested them in bonds of the Southern States and bonds of Southern railroads. The amount thus invested, which has since proved absolutely worthless, was $3,714,907.

The total amount stolen from and lost to the people of the United States, through Democratic officials, in these transactions with the Cherokees and Choctaws, was reported in 1876 to be $20,658,032. In the Presidential campaign of 1872, the Democrats freely charged that the Vice-President, the Vice-President-elect, the Speaker of the House and the Secretary of the Treasury had accepted Credit Mobilier stock as a bribe for their votes in favor of legislation obtained by the Union Pacific corporation. The committee of investigation reported resolutions expelling Oakes Ames, Republican, and James Brooks, Democrat, and the Government director of the Union Pacific road. Ames peddled the stock to secure legislation for his great enterprise, but Brooks, the leader of the Democracy on the floor of the House, was among the most conspicuous suckers that he caught.

The record of Democratic corruption includes the celebrated investigation by the Covode committee. In the first session of the Thirty-sixth Congress of 1859-60, two anti-Lecompton Democratic members of the House declared in debate that the Administration had endeavored to influence them corruptly to vote for the Lecompton bill. A committee of five, with John Covode, of Pennsylvania, at its head, investigated the charge for three months, and the Republican majority of the committee reported President Buchanan as guilty, while the Democratic minority exonerated him. This is not all the Democratic record of political corruption, but there would appear to be enough to go around.

RACE NOT DECLINING.

While the question of the "decline of the race" continues to agitate the minds of experts, the small boy is, to all appearances, as numerous as ever upon the Fourth of July, and girls and boys in undiminished thousands troop to the public schools and play "tag" on the street corners of Summer evenings. These are facts attested by common observation, hence it is surprising that "race decline" is disturbing the mental equipoise of Presidents, college professors, journalists and physicians.

Professor Theodore L. Smith, of Clark University, is out in the New York Evening Post with a counter blast to these trumpetings of race decline, which, being duly supported by figures carefully compiled from the latest census reports, should serve to allay the apprehensions of the fearful upon this important point. By the twelfth census of the United States (1890), the white population of the mainland was 55,101,258; the gross increase in white population from 1890 to 1900 was 19,056,281, the elements of which were distributed in the following proportions:

		Pr. ct.
Native white children of native white parentage (under 10 years)	10,649,101	55.8
Native white children of foreign white parentage (under 10 years)	4,719,616	24.7
Immigrants, white parentage (all ages)	3,687,564	19.3
Gross increase	19,056,281	
Deducting the net increase of whites, 1890-1900	11,707,938	
Leaves the total loss by death and emigration	8,348,243	

Assuming, says Professor Smith, that this loss was equally distributed among the different elements, and that 55.8 per cent of the total loss by death and emigration occurred among native whites of native white parentage (an estimate too large because of the greater mortality among those of foreign parentage, and the fact that the loss by emigration occurs almost entirely among this class), there still remains, after this reduction of 4,658,319, a net gain of 5,990,782 due to native white children of native white parentage, or a gain of 10.8 per cent on the total white population of 1890. The total white population in 1900 was 66,809,196 (twelfth census, volume 2, page 17); 10.8 per cent of this is 7,215,393, which, multiplied by ten, gives a total increase of 72,215,393 for the next 100 years, thus more than doubling the white population exclusive of any foreign aid, and, if reckoned by the usual method of compounding every ten years, more than doubling the entire population by means of native children of native parentage alone.

Dr. Engleman, in an article in a late number of Popular Science Monthly, estimated that the ordinary family in the time of Benjamin Franklin contained eight children. This is probably a fair estimate, but what of the mortality in large families at that period? As given in Mr. Dexter's "Yale Annals and Biographies From 1701 to 1763," it frequently reached 60 or 70 per cent. And if this was the case among children of the more prosperous and enlightened classes, what must it have been among the ill-fed, the ignorant and poverty-stricken? Is it not true that, in those old days, wherein parents were more prolific than provident, a greater number of children were born into the world than prudence dictated or humanity justified?

Some of the standard stories of old New England, which are realistic to a painful degree, include pictures of women of 40 or 50 years of age with bent bodies and gnarled hands, whose only periods of cessation from labor were spent upon the rack of childbirth or in the graveyards in sight of their childless homes, where from three to ten short graves attested their pitiable struggle with fruitless maternity and exacting toil. From this point of view, is it to be deplored that families are smaller now, as a rule, than they were in the time of Benjamin Franklin, in the sense that fewer are born? Is race decline to be trumpeted in the face of the fact that the percentage of infant mortality is lessening each year? Does any enlightened person in this day and age of the world, however devout, believe that the Lord gave and the Lord took away, to the foolish and cruel extent indicated by the numerous little hillocks or hollows that denote the graves of infants in the old family graveyards of bleak New England? It will be well to answer these questions candidly before we join in the popular jeremiad which has race suicide or race decline as its keynote.

It is reported that United States Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, will succeed Senator Hanna as chairman of the Republican National Committee before the opening of the campaign of 1904. It is believed that the next Republican National Convention will be dominated and controlled by Senator Lodge, Senator Foraker and other pronounced friends of the President. Among the reasons assigned for Senator Hanna's unfitness for further service at the head of the National committee is the fact that one of his trusted lieutenants and personal friends is Perry S. Heath, secretary of the committee, who must resign this position in view of the disclosures of the Postoffice Department investigation, whether innocent or guilty. Senator Hanna is sure to stand by Heath, as he never abandons a friend. If Heath goes, Hanna will surely not consent to stay at the head of the National Committee. Senator Lodge goes to Europe July 15 in preparation for his work as a member of the Alaska tribunal. Senator Lodge is not a member of the Republican National Committee, but it is suggested that his name can be substituted on the committee list for that of George von L. Meyer, Ambassador to Italy. Mr. Lodge is a practical politician. In 1883, as chairman of the State Committee of Massachusetts, he conducted the campaign that resulted in the defeat of Ben Butler and the election of George D. Robinson as Governor of the Bay State.

The Secretary of War has approved the recommendations of General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, that the new improved magazine rifle which has been under test for a year past be adopted for the military service. The New York Sun also reports that orders have been issued by General Crozier to the officers on duty at the Springfield Arsenal to complete arrangements as soon as possible for the work of manufacturing the new gun, and it is estimated that it will take a year to turn out a sufficient number to equip fully the regular Army in place of the Krag-Jorgensen now in use. The new rifle is to have a barrel twenty-four inches long, which is a compromise length between the thirty-inch infantry arm and the twenty-two-inch cavalry carbine. It has a number of new features, all designed to facilitate its use by the troops and to save weight. One of the features is the use of a rod bayonet in place of the sword bayonet. Both the infantry board at Fort Leavenworth and the cavalry board at Fort Riley approved the new rifle. In addition to all branches of the Army, the Navy will also be equipped with the new rifle, so that the same kind of ammunition can be used in both services.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton has compiled some of Alexander Hamilton's letters and published them in a volume, which includes some fresh evidence, lately discovered, concerning Hamilton's mother and the illegitimacy of his birth. Hamilton was not born in lawful wedlock, but his mother was not an unworthy woman, and the conclusion of Mrs. Atherton is that the West Indian conditions of the time and her domestic troubles go far to explain, if they do not justify, her course. Hamilton is not the only man of high genius in modern times to be born out of wedlock. Boccaccio, Don John of Austria, the Duke of Berwick, the great actor, Edmund Kean, Marshal Saxe, Prince Eugene and many other notable historical figures were illegitimate children. William the Conqueror was a bastard, and so was the Duke of Monmouth. The illegitimate children of Kings have generally been persons of superior ability compared with the legitimate offspring of monarchs, which is not surprising when we remember that the marriages of Kings are dictated not by freedom of personal choice or affection, but are negotiated as coldly between courts as treaties are between bargaining diplomatists.

The largest number of immigrants ever landed in Boston in a single month entered that port in May. The number landed reached the grand total of 11,124. Not before in the history of that port has the number of immigrants landed in one month exceeded 10,000. This immigration represented all European nationalities. The United Kingdom led in numbers, with 4103. Of these, 2577 came from Ireland, 1318 from England, 189 from Scotland and 19 from Wales. Northern Europe sent 5589, these being divided between Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Russia and Finland. From Southern Europe came only 1155, Italy leading with 877. This classification is regarded as encouraging, since, generally speaking, it is from the United Kingdom, Germany and Northern Europe that the best class of our foreign population comes. In the early years of the Republic, immigrants of all nationalities received a cordial and impartial welcome. Now we desire only the material from which loyal, self-supporting American citizens can be made.

It is recalled in connection with the disclosures of the postal frauds which continue from day to day that Charles Emory Smith never was a friend of civil service reform, and, to do him justice, he never pretended to be. President McKinley, before his election, spoke vigorously for it on several occasions, but afterward he learned—whether from Mr. Hanna, Mr. Smith or some more prominent member of his Cabinet—how useful patronage could be made, and quit vexing his serene spirit with reform measures. What with the revelations involving a number of honorable names, and the proofs that support them, much has come out in regard to the men and methods of the late Administration that is at once painful and surprising to the friends of William McKinley. While his complaisant nature is his defense, it is a defense that must be urged with regret and sorrow.

Paul Lessar, now Muscovite envoy at Pekin, has been summoned to St. Petersburg, and will probably replace Count Cassini as Russian Ambassador at Washington. Paul Lessar is an intimate friend of Secretary of State Hay, with whom he became acquainted when the latter was Ambassador to the court of St. James. Lessar is a bachelor of about 53. He started in life as a railroad engineer; was a technical expert to the Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the Afghan boundary. He was transferred to the foreign service of Russia; became Consul-General at Liverpool, and then went to London as first secretary of the Embassy. Lessar speaks and writes English perfectly, and was a great favorite in London society.

President Diaz, who has just been elected to another term as Chief Magistrate of Mexico, is 73 years of age. He will probably serve for life, and while he lives the public affairs of Mexico are likely to be tranquil and prosperous, but after him there is quite likely to be a reaction. Men of the Bismarckian quality of Diaz have not been frequent figures in the history of Mexico, and the people of that country can only be made progressive by main strength, even as Peter the Great made Russia rise out of barbarism by pulling her to her feet by the ears, kicking her into the ranks of civilization and then holding her there by the force of his despotic will and intellectual power.

Even our strenuous President must rest. He has retreated to Sagamore Hill to enjoy for the Summer the repose of family life, and will deny himself to all curious callers during his retirement. He is wise in these days who takes the rest cure in advance of a pressing necessity for its application. All men are not situated so they can do this, but many who are so situated neglect to put on the brakes until the down grade is so steep that they will not hold.

The City of Pittsburg, Pa., has recorded its dozen deaths of small boys who celebrated with toy pistols on Memorial day and were wounded by them. The Coroner of that city is reported to attribute the many deaths to the use of fulminate of mercury in the cartridges, which causes lockjaw. The police of Pittsburg have interdicted the further sale of toy pistols.

Progress in Education.

Baltimore American.

The present commencement season, during which the work of the universities, colleges and schools of all grades is passing in review, emphasizes the great progress this country has made and is still making in the intellectual training of its youth of both sexes. From all parts of the country come reports of the graduation of classes of unusual size, the announcements of munificent gifts for the broadening and extending the work of these institutions and for the great demand for men of ability to manage and teach. The salaries offered educators capable of filling such places are larger than ever before and there is a more general recognition of the value of their services from a commercial point of view.

A CLERICAL MEDDLER.

New York Tribune.

The Rev. R. C. Fillingham, vicar of Hexton, England, is probably right in thinking that he will get no answer from Bishop Potter beyond a courteous acknowledgment of his letter of protest against the services at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. If later on he should attend "mass" there, as he indicates that he may, and should disturb the worship of the congregation, he would probably find himself lodged in a police station cell as a disorderly person; and nobody in this country would have the least pity for him.

The Rev. Mr. Fillingham, vicar of Hexton, England, is simply an impertinent meddler. The conduct of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin is none of his business. That church may have gone to such extremes of ritualism that it violates the law of the Episcopal Church. Many Episcopalians, in this city, we believe, feel that it has. Bishop Potter may, as the Rev. Mr. Fillingham hints, be overdevoted to a "quiet life" and neglectful of his episcopal duty to hold his parishes obedient to the canons. If so, that is a matter for the consideration of the constituted authorities of the Episcopal Church. It no more concerns the vicar of Hexton, England, than it does the pope of Rome or the Grand Lama of Thibet. Mr. Fillingham seems to be a person who goes around looking for trouble. He has frequently attempted to disturb services in England. As he is a clergyman of the Church of England, that may be his right, though the London police do not seem to have so regarded it. For him to come here, however, and attempt the same tactics is sheer impudence.

Suppose some New York clergyman should go over to England and address a public letter to the Bishop of London saying that unless the services in St. Paul's Cathedral were modified to suit him he would take "forcible action" to have them. He would be promptly and justly squelched, no matter how desirable his proposed changes might be. This clerical busybody from Hexton should confine his fanatical campaigning to places where he has some standing.

HERBERT SPENCER IN YOUTH.

Stern of Character, Yet Human Enough to Enjoy a Joke.

The 83d birthday of Mr. Herbert Spencer has brought out, among other things, extracts from the anonymous diary of a friend of his early days, when he was on the engineering staff of the London & Birmingham Railway. Spencer, apparently, was neither companionable nor particularly popular.

His stern and somewhat harsh character stood forth in all its nakedness, as at his then early age he had neither tact nor knowledge of men sufficient wherewith to clothe his imperious temperament. He lived in an atmosphere of antagonism—a Radical among Tories, a Democrat among aristocrats, an advanced free thinker among sturdy supporters of the mother church. But young, thoughtless and careless as we were, we soon realized that a young fellow of keen penetrating intellect had come among us, before whom we could not hold our own in argument either in metaphysics or in engineering, when we presumed to differ.

Still, he was human enough to enjoy, and even to perpetrate, a practical joke upon a comrade, Hensman by name.

He inserted a piece of tracing paper daily inside the leather lining of Hensman's hat. In a few days the hat was a tight fit; remarks were made to the victim on the palpable enlargement of his cranium, which he verified by stating that his hat gave evidence of the truth of the observation by the gradual tightening of the fit. Great sympathy was expressed on the alarming symptom, and great fun was caused by Hensman's consternation.

The idea of Herbert Spencer playing practical jokes will probably be new and startling to most people.

DOG A REGULAR COMMUTER.

Goes to New York Each Morning, Returning Home at Night.

New York Tribune.

For the last ten days the employes at the Mount Vernon station of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad have been curious to learn the identity of a dog who seems to have become a regular commuter on the road. The dog answers to the name of Jack and is a mongrel.

Jack usually arrives at the station panting from exertion to catch the 8:47 train for this city. He waits until he sees a good chance to get on the train, and, after all the passengers are on board, he makes a dash up the steps and into a coach. He hides under a seat. At first the conductors and brakemen chased him and kicked him when they caught him stealing rides, but he has since made friends of them and they have come to respect his rights, at least as much as they do the rights of the other commuters.

The dog, when he reaches the Grand Central Station, bounds off the train and disappears in the crowd. In the evening he returns, and by watching for the Mount Vernon commuters, manages to find the train for that city.

Yesterday Jack was put off two trains, and then disappeared. In the afternoon he was seen getting off a train from this city, showing that he had come her despite the efforts of the station employes to prevent him. When he cannot get a train, Jack goes about with his tail between his legs, whining disconsolately.

TOO DEEP FOR PAT SHEEDY.

Noted Gambler's Opinion of a "Pi" Line in a Newspaper.

New York World.

"Pat" Sheedy has somewhat unique views on most topics, which quality leads his friends to consult him as to his opinions more often perhaps than the intrinsic merit of those same opinions justifies. An acquaintance recently decided to put up a joke on Sheedy by asking his views on a certain phrase in a New York newspaper. The sentence in question had been badly "pied." The first line read something like this:

"Pzxqd— ? ! agparfy," and so on for three lines.

"What do you think of that, Pat?" queried the joker, marking the paragraph and handing it over to Sheedy amid the grins of half a dozen bystanders. Sheedy read, or pretended to read, the sentence carefully. Then, handing it back, he observed:

"I'm a bit puzzled to know whether it's the name of a Kishenef martyr or just a new slang expression of Devery's."

Jap and Briton Friendly.

New York Evening Post.

As an illustration of the growth of Anglo-Japanism it is noteworthy that arrangements have been made for 50 Japanese students to make a tour of the British colonial empire. They will leave Tokio in the middle of July and will proceed direct to Australia and New Zealand, where they will spend three months. Thence they will go to Canada and return to India and Japan by way of South Africa. Each will be expected to make a separate report upon the agricultural and commercial position and possibilities of the countries visited.

Missouri Professional Ethics.

St. Clair County Democrat.

We shall insist that Mr. Stone committed no crime against the people of the state even if he did draw up the bill. He was an attorney at law, holding no public office, and his services were for sale to the first client that came along. If that client happened to be the Royal Baking Powder Trust, so much the worse for the people. They are supposed to have officers whose duty it is to guard them against sharpers and laws which will prove unjust. If these officers are derelict in the duty they owe to the people they are the ones to shoulder the blar

THE RETENTION OF PAYNE.

Philadelphia Press.

Mr. Payne is absolved from all blame. The criticism upon him is directed to what he has said rather than to what he has done. It is mostly concentrated on two utterances—first, the reference to President McKinley; second, the declaration that Tulloch was a "wind-bag" and that his allegations were "hot air." The first has been disposed of. The second was possibly not altogether discreet and judicial; but if it has not yet been sufficiently verified, it will be shown to be absolutely true, and it was the frank, open, indignant expression of a manly spirit that resented and scorned what he knew to be misleading, mendacious and sinister. He may well be excused for his hot and contemptuous outburst against a dismissed employe's misrepresentations. A public official, should of course, remember that he is a public official; but most people will think none the less of him for showing that he is a man.

What Mr. Payne has said may, therefore, well be dropped as of small account, soon forgotten. What he has done has not been open to criticism at all. He has from the outset, as we know from other authority than his own, been determined that the investigation should be full and thorough. He has taken every necessary step. He has been insistent that all crookedness should be remorselessly cut out. He has the implicit confidence of the President in this matter, as he deserves to have; the two are in perfect accord, and are working together to correct every evil. The inconsiderate clamor from some quarters for the retirement of Mr. Payne is based on a very imperfect understanding of the facts—on some superficial appearances instead of the essential truth—and it might as well be dropped. It is entirely unavailing. President Roosevelt is as resolute and courageous in standing by what he knows to be right as he is uncompromising and fearless in standing against what he knows to be wrong.

SHIRTS GROW ON TREES THERE.

That, at Least, Is the Statement of an Old Sailor.

Philadelphia Record.

"Shirts grow on trees where I came from," said the old sailor.

"How so, shipmut?" a pale clerk asked.

The sailor emptied his glass and wiped his mouth with the back of his hand. "I'm a-speakin'," he said, "of the South seas. You know them islands over there?"

"Sure," said the clerk.

"Well, that's where I mean that shirts grow on trees. There's a kind of a willow tree on them islands with a soft, flexible bark. A native selects a tree with a trunk that's just a little bigger round than what he is. He makes a ring with his knife around the trunk through the bark, and he makes another ring four foot below. Then, with a slit of the knife, he draws the bark off, the same as a boy does in makin' a willow whistle, and he's got a fine durable shirt. All he needs to do is to dry it out, make two holes for the arms, and put a lacin' in the back to draw it together.

"In the Spring of the year the shirts are gathered. Men and women both go out at that time to look for trees that fit them. These bark shirts are treated so as to be soft and flexible. They don't look bad. Gosh hanged if they look bad at all, for shirts that grow on trees.

METAMORPHOSIS OF MAGGIE.

Went to Paris on a Cook's Excursion and Now She Is Mlle. Marguerite.

Washington Post.

"Travel, sure, is a great thing, isn't it, for expanding the mind and developing the ambitions?" said a man from a little town in Central Pennsylvania. "There's an old maid in my town who has been making togs for women of the place for more years, probably, than she would care to admit, and until last fall, the sign tacked in front of the little shack where she lives with her parrot and cats read this way:

MAGGIE MONAHAN,
Dressmaker.

"Well, after saving up for a good many years for the purpose, Maggie was able, at the close of last Summer, to take one of those forty-day Cook's tours of the continong, as they call it. I believe Maggie spent all of four days in Paris. Anyhow, she hadn't been back in the little old Pennsylvania town 24 hours before a new sign took the place of the old one that had ornamented her shanty for so long. The new sign read this way:

MLLE. MARGUERITE,
Robes et Manteaux.

"Sure, is broadening, kind o' travel, isn't it?"

Not to Blame.

Minneapolis Tribune.

It is rather cruel to talk about the postal scandals driving Postmaster-General Payne out of office, as if he were in any way involved in them or responsible for them. If Mr. Payne should leave office on account of these scandals, it would be without blame and for reasons affecting his health, if not his very life.

It is such a common thing to plead ill health as the reason for acts done as the result of some fault that the plea gets little credit. But every one who knows even a little about Mr. Payne knows that he has been a very sick man for years, and only his extraordinary energy and ambition to round out his career caused him to desire a Cabinet place. The chronic heart trouble, or whatever it is that causes him to fall unconscious from time to time, in his office or in the street, has been aggravated by the labor and anxiety of the postal inquiry. If it should compel him to leave office, he will be brutally treated by the pharisaical newspapers; but the rational public will understand the matter.

As a politician, Mr. Payne is responsible like the others for the patronage system under which these corruptions have gotten into the postal service. As a man and a public officer, he is not only free from responsibility for the corruption, but he is the first Postmaster-General, Republican or Democratic, by which evils fostered under both parties have been exposed and rooted out.

In Doubt.

Washington Star.

"Doesn't your son Josh use a great deal of slang?"

"I'm afraid he does," answered Farmer Corntossel. "But me an' Mandy dasn't correct him, 'cause we can't be sure whether some o' them words is slang or expressions he got out o' the classics."

The Motorist's Farewell.

Pall-Mall Gazette.

My palpitating patrol steed, no more with thee I roam,
They bear me in an ambulance to take the train for home.
For others fly in clouds of dust with all thy winged speed,
I will not mount on thee again—we part, my pungent steed.

No more upon pneumatic tire we rush the crowded street,
Through streams of loud anathemas too lurid to repeat.
No more we'll scare the country lane and foul the breezy wind,
And leave the hobby who protests a happy league behind.

I blame thee not for raceless form or hideous design
Thy stormy petrel spirit needs a stouter curb than mine.
Thy bake and cylinder were false—too late, I know and feel
There lurks a demon heart within that throbbing breast of steel.

I leave thee, snorting, panting fiend; with curses loud and deep.
Thy farmyard victims oft will rise and haunt me in my sleep,
But when I'm tired of life and wish from this vain world to flee,
I'd rather take the stately hearse than ride again with thee.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

July 1.

Only three days more.

It seems like months to the small boys.

William the Sudden must want a small favor from Uncle Sam.

It seems to be a case of Grim death with the Portland Nationals.

If the Chief is going to find the highwaymen, he better live up to his name.

There is only one Portland team to lose now, and our grief ought to be cut in half.

The shipbuilding trust could float ships, but it couldn't float dividends on watered stocks.

It is to be hoped that the American warships at Kiel won't get the swell head and capsize for being top-heavy.

And now we bid
A last farewell
To the Portland team
Of the P. N. L.

An impression has been abroad for some years that Mme. Modjeska, the actress, had lost the large fortune she earned in this country. The fact is she has been quite able to cease acting any time she wanted to in the last ten years, but continues her professional work because there is a demand for it and because she likes it. Most of her fortune is invested in her California ranch, which has increased in value largely of late.

The Countess of Carlisle is undoubtedly the most radical woman in the British isles, not only on the drink question, but in other things. She would like to abolish all titles of nobility and if her husband and relatives did not insist upon her using the title, which is very old, it is said she would have dropped it long ago. Lady Carlisle has succeeded Lady Henry Somerset as president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Great Britain.

There is a family named Fennen living in the north of England whose original name was Purvis. Two hundred years ago Frank Purvis turned pirate and was killed fighting on his ship. The family then decided to relinquish the name of Purvis and take that of Fennen and ever since the eldest son of the family on attaining his majority signs a pledge that he will not resume the name of Purvis. The pledge has been handed down from father to son and bears some 50 signatures.

Senator Knute Nelson, of Minnesota, is one of the most accomplished linguists of the Senate. A Norwegian by birth, he speaks that language perfectly. He also speaks Swedish, Danish, German and, of course, English. He has a very good understanding of French. Senator Nelson from the age of 12 was brought up in Minnesota, where a mixed population of Norwegians, Swedish, Danish and Germans gave him a splendid opportunity to acquire their languages, and, being at all times studious, he lost no chance to add to his knowledge.

Ezra T. Gilliland, an inventor of National repute and who is responsible for many of the improvements on the Bell telephone as it is now in use, died recently at his home in Pelham Manor, N. Y. He was at one time a director of the Bell Company and was closely associated with Thomas A. Edison in a number of his telephone achievements. Up to the time of his death he maintained a large laboratory on the top floor of his handsome home and had in his employ seven skilled men, who were engaged in working out his latest ideas in the line of electrical advance.

A committee of business men of a Kansas town called on W. J. Black, general passenger agent of the Santa Fe at Topeka, the other day and asked for Sunday excursions. Here's what he told them: "Well, gentlemen, if you have come to the Santa Fe to run Sunday excursions you have come to see the wrong man. The Santa Fe does enough business on week days without running extra trains on Sunday. If I had my way about it not an engine on the entire system would have fire in it. But the great commercial world and Government mail contracts compel us to run regular trains on the Sabbath."

In his present position Lord Curzon works 14 hours a day. He starts in the early morning, works till 1:30—or lunch time—he gives an hour and a half to the numerous guests he has, then he works again till dinner time; at 10:30 he leaves his dinner guests, goes to his study and remains there till 2 o'clock in the morning. He seldom spends more than an hour and a half in the open air each day. And he works at this high pressure wherever he may be—on board a steamer, in a railway or when resting at one of his temporary dwellings during his tours. And yet those who meet him as his guest can scarce realize that he is so terrible a worker.

The Retort Deserved.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish has such an assured place in society that she does not hesitate to tell of her husband's early struggles with the world. In fact, she is rather fond of doing so. While in Nice last Spring she related at a dinner party how Mr. Fish worked his way up to the presidency of the Illinois Central Railroad. A German princeling who was among the guests remarked, with just the trace of a sneer: "I had always heard that your husband came from a fine family." Mrs. Fish met this thrust with perfect good nature. "Oh, yes, he does. But, you see, in America it is not a disgrace to work. How much better it would be if those conditions prevailed in Europe. We in America would be spared so many titled nonentities."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

She—Mother is on our side, anyway. He—What did she say? "She told papa that he mustn't judge too much by looks."—Life.

"Why did she marry him?" "I give it up. He wasn't bad enough to need reforming or good enough to make a desirable husband."—Judge.

Bacon—What do you think of the man who goes about trying to peddle his own autobiography? Egbert—Why, I think he takes his life in his hands.—Yonkers Statesman.

"You spoke very admiringly of that man's courage." "Yes." "But he never was a soldier or a fireman or a policeman." "No. But he eats mushrooms that he has gathered himself."—Washington Star.

"Well, there is one thing that can be said of Crawfoot. Although he went fishing himself on the Sabbath, he didn't let his little son fish." "I am glad to hear that. Was the boy at Sunday school?" "No, baiting the hooks."—Chicago Daily News.

Nagsby—How do you suppose that landlady of ours can have the face to advertise "fine board?" Wagsby—I don't know, unless it is because she serves sawdust for breakfast food.—Baltimore American.

Proud Father—Rick, my boy, if you live up to your oration you'll be an honor to the family. Valedictorian—I expect to do better than that, father. I am going to try to live up to the baccalaureate sermon.—Chicago Tribune.

"You may talk as you please," said the man who thought he was in society, "but it is ridiculous to pretend that the masses are not interested in the reports of the doings of the swell set." "Of course they're interested," replied the plain man; "everybody's interestd in a