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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7.

A HOPEFUL REVOLUTION.

The province, department or state of Panama has an area of about 31,500 square miles, with a population that approximates 300,000.

The population will ever be much increased. Construction and operation of the inter-oceanic canal would, however, create increased local activity.

The so-called Republic of Colombia, one of the homes of anarchy in Spanish America, comprises nine provinces or departments, with a total area of 404,773 square miles and about four millions of inhabitants.

Another revolution, that began in 1886, resulted in the formation of a constitution, by which the sovereignty of the nine states was established.

It is our connection with the affairs of Panama, through negotiation for the canal, and that alone, that gives us of the United States an interest in these affairs.

The revolutionary movement in Panama seems excellent in every way for the great interests to be subserved through construction of the canal.

Now comes a staid professor of the University of Washington and proclaims before a teachers' institute the desirability of permitting children to learn a certain amount of "meanness."

It is practically impossible, in view of their environment, to prevent them from learning. Or perhaps this advice is given in conformity with the idea that it is the duty of public educators to point out possible disastrous consequences to the most promising endeavors and turn the fairest garment inside out lest we forget that it has a seamy side.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE LAW.

Frequent references made in the stock market reports to the forthcoming Northern Securities decision, and the persistence with which financial and railroad journals refer to it, leave no doubt that that event, expected in December, is hanging like a cloud, ominous and oppressive, over the financial world.

The pessimists will hear of nothing but the most grievous consequences from an adverse decision. The argument is that if Northern Securities is illegal, then half the railroad corporations of the country are illegal.

On the other hand, a multitude of optimistic considerations have been suggested. The New York Sun endeavors to allay the apprehensions excited by the supposed probability of a decision adverse to the Northern Securities Company.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press, which seems to have made a careful study of the problem, belongs to the pessimistic school, and refuses to be comforted by any of these suggestions.

It seems to The Oregonian that the mitigations of the expected adverse decision are to be found, not in vain promises, but in some specific undertakings of the railroad companies.

The Hill merger was conceived as a circumvention of law whose meaning was plain and perfectly understood by its promoters.

The shortage of crude oil menaces, it is said, more seriously than ever before the oil business of the country.

The Standard Oil Company is industriously exploring for new sources of supply at intervals all the way from Maine to Florida.

CHANGES IN THE SENATE.

One-third of the membership of the United States Senate retires every two years, and the places are filled, either by re-election or by election of new men.

The death of James Hunter, of this city, occurred without warning on a street-car in Spokane Thursday evening as a result of indigestion, overeating and over-exercising.

When we remember that of the forty-five states of the Union some fourteen are practically certain for the Democrats, it is clear that in case of anything like equal division of the Senators from the other thirty-one the Democrats would easily control the Senate.

Insurance against appendicitis has been undertaken by an English company. According to advices, policies are issued covering appendicitis risks at the rate of \$1.25 a year for every \$500.

German East Africa appears to be a much quieter country than German West Africa, where the natives have recently been burning forts and expressing their hatred of the black man's burden in other ways common amongst the uncivilized.

The decadence of California as a wheat exporting state was never more clearly illustrated than in this country's House statistics for the first four months of the current year.

One of the many minor industries of which Germany has long been the center is the manufacture of hairpins.

The discovery of the X-rays has opened a new field for women. In many of the German hospitals classes of women are being trained as X-ray nurses, and the pupils will be employed solely as nurses to patients treated with the rays.

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It does not require concurrence in all the political ideas of Senator Hanna to recognize the truth of the persistent rumor that, "although a business man," he has become an effective public speaker.

What is oratory? An appeal addressed to an assembly for the purpose of altering the opinion prevalent in it or for the purpose of confirming an opinion presumed to be entertained by some of those present.

It will be admitted that the most recent oratory of the English tongue has been delivered in the House of Commons.

For the largest measure of influence upon his time and all time for forcing men against their interests to agree with him the palm belongs to Richard Cobden, who never entered a university and was never a member of a university.

Convictions are a foundation of effective public speaking. A man must be able to state his highest principle in order to convey them to others.

It was only in the presidency that his independence made his mental operations more self-reliant. Volunturnous with his pen and not inert, he was never concise.

It were well for the country if more of its business men, whatever their convictions, followed the example of Senator Hanna and diminished the effeminacy of their lives caused by an undue proportion of men without convictions and of merely literary advocates of political impressions which are in the intellectual jelly stage and lack the bone and sinew of sincerity and determination.

When Jefferson Really Retired. Joseph Jefferson, the actor, is very sensitive on the subject of his retirement from the stage.

Mr. Jefferson has retired. And when the actor who sleeps 20 years in every performance took the reporter out and bought him a \$5 hat.

The washdays are reported as being on an open washday at Colon, but unable to get ashore on account of the shortage of the harbor.

MARK HANNA THE ORATOR.

Chicago Chronicle, Dem. It does not require concurrence in all the political ideas of Senator Hanna to recognize the truth of the persistent rumor that, "although a business man," he has become an effective public speaker.

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PARALLELS FOR MANCHURIA.

Chicago Inter Ocean. The latest version of the treaty between Russia and China gives Russia the virtual control in Manchuria.

This, as far as China is concerned, looks like a shanty. "Here I will talk, you lose." Whatever happens, Russia under this treaty is empowered to remain in Manchuria and protect her own railroads and other property.

Russia has built, under treaties with China, several hundred miles of railroad in Manchuria, opening the country to commerce.

The provision in the new treaty which declares that in case of war, if Russia wins against a third power invading Manchuria, China must cede Manchuria to Russia, may seem a mere juggle in words.

In fact, Russia in her negotiations with China is not more open to criticism than her neighbors.

It is woman's part, therefore, to throw into the balance of political debate the weight of the demand of the home for protection, the weight of domestic industry, the weight of the moral issues involved.

In the course of his investigations, Dr. Lederle, the New York Health Commissioner, has collected a number of samples of the whisky sold in the lowest Bowery and saloons.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Webfoot Astrologer of 1904. November 7.—About this date heavy rain may be expected in Oregon.

A Blind Beggar's Sign. STRICKEN BLIND 10 YEARS AGO BY A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT. Hanna says he is Roosevelt's own Mark.

The Republic of Panama comes to better the young student of geography. Warmbad is an appropriate name for the German fort burnt by African savages.

King Peter wants to "abdicate." The man who has hold of a bear by the tail just calls it letting go. San Francisco has had an automobile parade, but the list of injured shows it to have been rather a fizzle.

Once more the Irish members of Parliament are fighting like devils for reconciliation. A girl from the Bar H ranch in Montana has eloped with a Chinaman. The owner should change his brand to Bar Mongolian.

The negroes who went to Liberia soon grew homesick for the Southern States, and why shouldn't they, with many a melon on the coast and a population ignorant of crops? The man from Cactusville, who has never seen more water than the tenderfoot uses for a chaser is the man for the rivers and harbors committee. He won't have the nation's money thrown away on anything so manifestly useless as water, salt or fresh.

While the feudists may attract some attention, they are lacking in the appealing commercial spirit that animates the bandits of West Virginia. These people have just as much fun as the feud parties, and a chance for more money.

Professor Yoder, of Seattle, in his endeavor to place the culture of that striving burg on a level with Chicago's, has declared that children should be allowed to learn meanness. Possibly he has been wearied by the insipid goodness of the Seattle cherubs, who are unable to acquire any spice of meanness in their celestial city.

College girls are recommended as an improvement upon "amens" at prayer meetings. To be sure. And a cane rush by the choir would be more exciting than the tame processions that at present contribute to the general dullness. And the collects in slang would be more amusing than in the old-fashioned English of past centuries. And ragtime would improve the psalms, the Gregorian chant being entirely out of date. And the offertory might be placed upon the altar in a cakewalk. Let 'em all come, and let us be modern at all costs.

The men of the high finance are now said to be reduced to cooking their lunches in a chafing dish in their Wall-street offices. Formerly when they went to a convenient restaurant the waiter was all ears, and communicated their unguarded remarks to his employers, who straightaway bulled or beared, as the great ones did. It is pathetic to think of Morgan, Schwab, Carnegie, Rockefeller and Hetty Green gathered in a little inside office, the doors and windows barred.

"Better let Hetty do the cooking, Flerp," suggests Rockefeller. "You're putting too much water in the coffee-pot, Charlie," says Carnegie to Schwab. "It's a way he has," interjects Morgan. "Well, boys, it must be Welsh rabbit again," says Morgan, "that's the only thing we can cook."

"Oh, mon," groans Carnegie, "talk about undigested securities." "Wait a moment," says Rockefeller, "tell us why grace out," says Miss Green. "Oh, cut that out," says Miss Green. "We're all wise ones." "But Welsh rabbit will kill me," weeps Rockefeller. "You know my stomach is weak." "We can't regard the consumer, you know," says Morgan. "Poor millionaires." WEX J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

"I am wearing my heart away for you!" wailed the beautiful girl. "That's nothing," replied the youth who had to walk twice blocks every night he called: "I'm wearing my soul away for you."—Philadelphia-Record.