The Oregonian.

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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 54; minimum temperature, 50; precipitation, .01 of an inch.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain; brisk southerly winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14.

THE UNFAIR CHICAGO PRESS.

No higher or more sincere compliment could be paid the newspapers of Chicago than the tribute that has just been tendered them by the Democratic committee. It was the expectation to hold the Democratic National Convention of this year at Chicago, but at the last moment the change was made to St. Louis for the reason that at St. Louis, as not at Chicago, the convention would be assured of "an absolutely fair press."

The point was well taken. There are, in Chicago, newspapers Republican, Democratic and Independent; but there is not one among them which bowed the knee in 1896 or in 1900 to the silver Baal or its prophet. The Democratic papers of Chicago are hostile to the Roosevelt Administration in all its policies; but they have sense and courage enough to see, as they saw in 1896, the infamy of free silver and free riot. It is an unfriendly atmosphere for a convention that expects to be guided by the influence of Bryan.

This unfair attitude toward debased money; this bitter prejudice against the suppression of disorder by law; this unreasoning devotion to the financial honor of the Nation, has never laid hold of the Democratic papers of St. Louis. There a party which turned its back upon its own traditional teachings concerning money and upon the universal experience of history with debased currency, so plain that no sane person 15 years old could misread it, may be made to feel entirely at home. There all may be sure of courteous treatment in the press, the rascal as well as the honest man, the fool as well as the wise.

In 1880 Chicago had 500,000 people and St. Louis 350,000. In 1900 Chicago had 1,700,000 and St. Louis 575,000. One had gained 225,000, the other 1,200,000. Illinois cast 1,000,000 votes in 1896 and 600,000 of them were for McKinley. The State of Missouri cast 680,000 votes in 1896 and 360,000 of them were for Bryan. The St. Louis press is fairer to the Democrats than the press of Chicago. The vote of Illinois will be fairer to the Democratic nominee than the vote of Missouri next November. The prejudice of New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; remembering 1884 and 1896 and 1900; remembering the Army and Navy in the Philippines; remembering Lincoln and McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft, will not be fair. It will be one-sided. The choice of St. Louis is appropriate. It is not well to encounter the Chicago press at too close range.

SENATOR HOAR'S MISTAKE.

A recent episode at Washington, in which Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, and the editor of The Oregonian were the chief actors, has been the occasion of a great deal of comment from Eastern men and newspapers, who embraced the opportunity of pointing out Senator Hoar's infirmities of disposition, and the inconsistency he shows in resenting the same sort of criticism upon himself which he freely administers to others. It has been reserved for an Oregon paper, the Deschutes Echo, to court notice by eccentricity. It says:

> The reputation of The Oregonian is now secure and has a ratable valuation in the East. Senator Hoar refused to shake hands with Scott on account of a coarse article which The Oregonian printed against Hoar's late colleague, Morrell. . . . An editor who doctors his news columns in order to do a little political bushwhacking is liable to snubs, and the coarse articles that repeatedly appear in The Oregonian would bankrupt a paper in any other part of the country.

It may interest our high-toned critic to know that it is Morrill instead of Morrell; that he was not Hoar's colleague, but from Vermont, and that the story to which Senator Hoar referred never appeared in The Oregonian. The grievance of Mr. Hoar was not concerning Mr. Morrill, but concerning himself and the steady fire The Oregonian has always directed against his crotchets of "bimetalism" and "anti-imperialism." The Oregonian has always spoken of Senator Morrill with respect and admiration, and neither upon his last election to the Senate, upon his death or at any other time has it adverted to him with innuendo or abuse.

The charge that Mr. Morrill was walking around to save funeral expenses was a standing joke throughout Vermont, and acquired point from the venerable Senator's proverbial "hearness." But it never appeared in the columns of The Oregonian. Whether Senator Hoar had good reason to believe that it had so appeared we know not; but if so, he was imposed upon by some mischief-maker whom it would not be impossible, perhaps, to identify. The high esteem in which Senator Hoar is held by The Oregonian and by the people of Oregon for his honored and blameless public life, despite his eccentricities of disposition, has not been improved, neither has it been seriously impaired, by the curious incident in the Senate elevator.

UNSELFISH JAPAN IN COREA.

The government at Tokio has thought it necessary to deny that it has demanded of Corea the recognition of a protectorate over it by Japan. This leaves Japan still in the nominal position of supporting the independence of Corea—a principle for which she went to war in 1894, and which she has still professed to support, notwithstanding all the talk we hear about the necessity of Japan's having a free hand in Corea as a condition of her own existence. On the one hand we have the atrocious desire of Russia to conserve her borders and privileges in Manchuria, and on the other the highly laudable purpose of Japan to make Corea a mere fortified outpost of her ambitious advance upon the continent. There are some records here worth examination.

Corea, according to the diplomats, is negligible. Japan wants Corea, and the only question seems to be whether Russia will let Japan have it or demand it for herself. For more than a thousand years Corea paid unwilling tribute to her island neighbor. On several occasions in past centuries Japan overran the peninsula with fire and sword. The legacy of hatred entailed by these invasions was increased in our own time by the summary action of Japan in compelling Corea to open her ports to trade. In 1895 Japan aggravated the situation still further by instigating or conniving at a conspiracy to overturn the Corean government, a conspiracy ending in the discomfiture of Japan in the murder of the Corean Queen and in the temporary ascendancy of Russia. In the whole course of her later relations with Japan Corea has witnessed a great increase of Japanese commerce through a development of Corean resources, but Corea is at heart hostile to her suzerain.

The patient persistence of Russian influence in Corea must be reckoned with now, just as it was in the international settlement of the results of the Japan-China war. Corean officers have acquired from European sources, mainly Russian, some knowledge of the theory of war, so that their leadership in a crisis would not be altogether blind. Should Corea indulge her natural inclination to shake off Japanese control, there is no doubt that the Corean standing army would be directed by Russian officers, who would see to it that recruits were forthcoming from the native population. It will not do to assume that Japan is stronger than Russia in Corea. There are many signs to the contrary, and one of them is the alacrity with which Japan hastens to deny the "protectorate" story. The most natural inference, indeed, would be that there is some discontent in Corea which it is thought advisable to allay.

HEREDITY WILL ASSERT ITSELF.

The noble Roman Fabricius, who was arrested in a Portland restaurant as an escape from the City Jail, seems in a fair way to meet the same impecunious fate which overtook his celebrated ancestor Caius Lucinius Fabricus, Consul of Rome some 300 years before Christ. That eminent statesman was so severe in his tastes and conscientious in his morals that he spurned every luxurious indulgence, lived within his modest salary and died so poor that the state had to provide for his sole surviving daughter.

These facts are mentioned to the credit of Fabricius by the ancient historians, who honored his memory in every way. He it was who, when sent to the enemies of Rome to treat for exchange of prisoners, declined an immense bribe which was offered him for some slight breach of trust. He it was who, when the physician of the opposing General, the famous Pyrrhus, came over to the Roman camp and offered to poison his master for a bribe, put the rascally doctor in fetters and sent him bound to Pyrrhus himself, giving an example in Roman integrity which mightily impressed the Grecian monarch.

Our primary purpose, however, was not to rebuke Caius Lucinius for his improvidence in not working the Consul's office for all it was worth, after the manner of modern patriots, but to caution M. Publius Fabricius, of Portland, from making the same mistake. No man who leaves the luxurious fare of the City Jail for a North End hotel, meals five, beds five, bath free, can ever hope to escape the inglorious end of Fabricius I. Whatever issue M. Publius has left in the various ports of the New World will have to be supported by the conscript fathers.

MRS. MAYBRICK'S RELEASE.

A London dispatch to the New York Sun announces that on the 8th inst. final arrangements were made for the release of Mrs. Maybrick, who was convicted of poisoning her husband and sentenced to imprisonment for life. She will be liberated in April next. Mrs. Maybrick would have served fifteen years in jail had she remained in prison until next July. The present action of the government is one usually taken in England in cases of life imprisonment when the prisoner's conduct is good.

Mrs. Maybrick is the daughter of the late W. G. Chandler, a banker of Mobile, Ala., and was but 17 years old when in 1880 she married James Maybrick, a cotton broker 44 years of age. They lived in Liverpool, where two children were born to them. Maybrick became jealous of one Brierly, and because his wife accompanied Brierly to a racetrack, beat her. Shortly after Maybrick died of inflammation of the stomach and bowels, and Mrs. Maybrick was arrested and charged with having poisoned her husband with arsenic. In the house 85 grains of arsenic was found, and an autopsy and chemical analysis revealed the presence of one-tenth of a grain of arsenic in Maybrick's organs.

There was conclusive evidence to show that Maybrick was an arsenic eater, and that a short time before his death he had purchased 150 grains of that poison. After being out only thirty-eight minutes the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree. Mrs. Maybrick was sentenced to death and the scaffold for her execution was actually erected, but such strong pressure was brought to bear that the death sentence was commuted to one of imprisonment for life. The head of the English Home Office, it was reported, rested his consent to a request for commutation solely on the ground that the proof of the use of arsenic as a drug by Maybrick created a possible doubt whether he died of a dose given him by his wife or died of his own persistent use of the drug.

The head of the Home Office believed strongly in her guilt, but was willing to consent to commutation solely on the possible doubt whether Maybrick was poisoned by his wife or died through his practice of the arsenic habit. The evidence on the trial left Maybrick and his wife without any character for morality. He was a drunkard, a drug eater and a debauchee, and she had become so demoralized by his brutal treatment and his low life that her social morals were like those of Becky Sharp. Mrs. Maybrick, who is now 41 years of age, will come to this country with her mother and make her home in Louisiana.

A MISTAKEN IDEA.

When it was announced a few days ago that American marines, called to do general guard duty at the American legation at Seoul, had been transported from the seacoast to that city by the Japanese railway, while a Russian marine guard, detailed for like service at the Corean capital, had been refused such transit, the incident was interpreted to mean that Japan recognizes in the United States a possible active ally in the event of war with Russia.

This view is plainly erroneous. It indicates, certainly, that Japan does not feel kindly toward Russia at the present time, and is not disposed to go out of her way to accommodate her couchant foe. But the conclusion in regard to this country is not well based. The United States is the friend of Japan and to some extent the patron of that country. Our Government in point of fact first introduced the Island Empire to the world, having with infinite pains battered down the old wall of exclusiveness by which it was for centuries encompassed. This Nation was furthermore the first to welcome Japan to the full status of a civilized power by abandoning the privileges of extra-territoriality—an example that was followed by the nations of Europe. Friendship thus begun continues to exist between Japan and the United States. There has, indeed, been nothing to strain or break it. But this is wholly aside from any prospect or purpose of an active alliance between the two countries for aggressive purposes.

There is also, it may be observed, a traditional friendship between the United States and Russia. This friendship persists in spite of the strong contrasts that exist between the political institutions of the two countries. We have not forgotten the dark days of our Civil War, wherein the third Napoleon attempted to fasten a monarchy upon this continent and England looked with favoring glances toward the Southern Confederacy. Russia's position at that time was distinctly friendly, in that it favored the policy of letting the United States alone to deal with the disturbance that had arisen in its family. For this the Nation was and is duly appreciative, but this fact has nothing to do with its attitude on the present complications in the Far East. It has its own interests to look after in that section, and is looking after them. The transportation of its marines to Seoul on the Japanese railway means simply that it was fortunate in getting them there by the easiest and most expeditious route. There is not in it the slightest suggestion of a possible alliance with Japan against Russia.

The United States is an interested spectator of events in the region of the Eastern storm center, and not a prospective participant. The opinions of its citizens as individuals do not count in matters of international importance, and the Government is far too sagacious to depart from the language and the acts of diplomacy in its attitude toward the nations that are now threatening each other with fleets and armies in the Far East.

WORTHLESS CROP REPORT.

After giving the buying markets of the world six months of bearish and erroneous information regarding the wheat crop of the United States, the Department of Agriculture about two weeks ago issued its final figures on the yield for 1903. It is not a difficult matter to attain a reasonable degree of accuracy when the facts in the case are all known, hence this latest estimate of the Government is less grotesque than its predecessors, although, as far as the Pacific Northwest is concerned, it is still 10 per cent too high. It will be remembered that on May 1, 1903, the Government gave out conditions indicating a crop of 800,000,000 bushels. Included in this wild guess were conditions which warranted a crop of nearly 50,000,000 bushels in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, although at that time farmers and exporters knew perfectly well that not by any possible combination of perfect weather conditions could it be possible to get over 40,000,000 bushels.

As late as September the Government's report on conditions was still enabling the foreign buyers to hammer the market with the "record crop" club. At that time the Government gave out to the world conditions which indicated a crop of over 45,000,000 bushels in the three states. The Oregonian on September 6 printed an estimate based on the observations of a number of trained correspondents and wheat experts showing the crop of the three states to be approximately 34,000,000 bushels, or more than 10,000,000 bushels less than the amount indicated by the Government. This paper had no facilities for securing data that were not open to the Government, and yet, with the opportunity for securing somewhere near a correct estimate, every wheatgrower on the Pacific Coast was made to suffer by reason of the foreign buyer accepting as correct a bearish Government report, while as a matter of fact it should have been decidedly bullish, so far as the Pacific Northwest was concerned.

Even at this late date, when the entire wheat crop of the Pacific Northwest is practically in sight, the Government is giving out figures far in excess of those warranted by the actual facts in the case. For example, the three North Pacific States are credited with 37,553,158 bushels of wheat—an amount nearly 4,000,000 bushels in excess of the actual amount that can be located by the best-posted men in the trade. The figures for the entire country have shrunk from the 800,000,000-bushel outlook on May 1 to 637,000,000 bushels, and if the same glaring blunders that have been made regarding the North Pacific crop have been general throughout the United States this can be shaded well under 600,000,000 bushels without jeopardizing the truth. Such erroneous figures are worse than none at all, for in the hands of unscrupulous foreign buyers, even though the latter are familiar with the actual facts, they become very effective weapons for beating down prices.

This brings up the question, If private firms and individuals can secure information which in the end the Government is forced to accept as accurate, why cannot better results be secured for the vast sums which the Department of Agriculture spends in collecting its data? With no desire to boast, The Oregonian can truthfully state that the estimates of this paper, printed in September for the past five years, have proven remarkably accurate—so much so that they have broken up the old practice of overestimating the crop and forced local statisticians to trail in with The Oregonian's figures, only thinly disguised to avoid recognition. The Pacific Northwest has produced over 47,000,000 bushels of wheat, and the average for the past five years has been about 40,000,000 bushels. We should like ot keep the figures as high as possible, but the grower gains nothing by having his crop overestimated. In fact, he is a distinct loser, for the shipowner bases his freight rates on the amount of wheat to be moved and the foreign buyer bases his prices on the amount of wheat he has in sight, or professes to believe he has in sight, when he scans the monthly crop reports of the American Department of Agriculture.

The woolgrowers, now in convention in this city, are anxious to have the forest reserve matter taken out of the hands of the Interior Department and turned over to the Department of Agriculture. This might open a way for a trade, and if we can have the crop conditions and statistics regarding wheat taken out of the hands of the Department of Agriculture and placed in those of any old department, it can be done with the assurance that, no matter what happens, the official figures cannot be much if any more useless than they now are.

The poultry show now in progress at Albany presents a fine array of carefully bred fowls. It is gratifying to know that there are fine chickens in the Willamette Valley, and that they show a pronounced increase in numbers and variety every year, even if we do have to import eggs in yearly increasing bulk from the Middle West for table consumption and pay 45 cents a dozen for "ranch eggs" at Thanksgiving and Christmas time. Now we are proud of the Langshans and the Buff Cochins, the Plymouth Rocks, the Wyandottes, the White Leghorns and all the rest of the bluebloods of poultrydom. But for utility's sake we would fain reinstate in some thousands of barnyards the reliable old Dominicks and Black Spanish pullets whose melodious cackle resounded from morning until noon about the barn, and every individual cackle meant a fresh egg. Of course there is a good deal in this estimate of old-time henly virtues that is of a piece with the vaunted superiority of the huckleberries that grew years ago in the swamp in the far corner of the back pasture lot, of the doughnuts that "mother made," and of the Spitzenbergs that ripened by the south wall. The enchantment of distance and time is over them all. But the fact remains that we did have eggs for breakfast without stopping to count the cost in the old days before hens were valued especially for their size and plumage. Let the poultry fancier come to the rescue of his prize stock and incidentally let him explain, if he can, why the old-fashioned speckled hen attended more strictly to business as an egg-producer and chicken-raiser than does the "new hen," maugre her stately tread and fine feathers. We hasten to suggest that this explanation do not take too wide a range, lest it cause a flutter in the feminine world outside of hendom.

If the Lodge bill giving the Philippines greater tariff advantages can ever be brought to a vote, it ought to count upon Democratic support, especially in the House, where the able leadership of Representative John Sharp Williams has already achieved good results toward Cuba. It is not improbable that the general tariff discussion that would ensue would encourage the Democrats to come out boldly, for generous treatment of the Philippines as opposed to the high-tariff compliance with the demands of the great protected interests. The facts are all on the side of generous concessions. The value of sugar imports into the United States in the three years ended June 30 last was $217,000,000. In that same three years the Philippines succeeded in exporting, all told, to all foreign countries, only $9,000,000 worth. The imports of tobacco into the United States for this period were worth $57,000,000. As against this, the total sales of the Philippines abroad reached only $8,000,000. Turning to the figures of home production, we find that the total production of cane and beet sugar in the United States, including Hawaii and Porto Rico, in the years 1901-02, was 863,000 tons. The total product of the Philippines was but 94,000 tons, and the exports from the Philippines to the United States amounted to less than 6000 tons. As for tobacco, our total production in 1899, the last year for which statistics are available, was 868,163,275 pounds. No figures for the production in the Philippines are obtainable, but our imports from the islands in the fiscal year of 1903 reached only 250,369 pounds. In the face of facts like these any pretense that a moderate reduction on Philippine sugar and tobacco will ruin the sugar and tobacco industries in this country is little short of puerile.

The Tradesman, of Chattanooga, Tenn., has compiled the industrial statistics of the Southern States for 1903. It finds that during the first quarter of the year 1277 new industries were begun; for the second, 1346; for the third, 1316, and for the fourth, 1297—a total of 5236 new industrial establishments in a single year. In the past quarter 253 new woodworking plants are reported, and the opening up of timber lands and the manufacture of furniture appear to be the features of the year. Thirty-four new mines or quarries have been opened in West Virginia in the last three months, giving some idea of the rapid development of that state's great mineral resources. Twenty-six natural gas and oil companies have also been formed in West Virginia during the past quarter. Another encouraging feature is the variety of new manufacturing plants, these including among many others button, clothing, brass, broom, harness, piano, pottery and paint factories. This industrial growth of the New South is very gratifying.

AS OTHERS VIEW US.

No Race Suicide There.

Spokane Chronicle.

The County of Multnomah, the big county of the State of Oregon, the county which contains a city which thinks she is twice the size of Spokane—this county during the year 1903 issued 1290 marriage licenses. Spokane County, which makes no pretensions of being more than a thriving inland community about half Portland's size, issued 1064 marriage licenses—and that's a record worth bragging about, too.

Thanks, Honest Friend.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The issue of the Portland Oregonian for January 1 consists of 64 pages, mostly devoted to an exposition of the industries, resources and progress of Oregon, with a prospectus of the "Lewis and Clark Fair" which is to be held in 1905. The paper is well worthy of scrutiny, particularly by those who, looking for new homes, are inclined toward the Canadian Northwest. It will open the eyes of not a few to the vastly superior opportunities afforded, in a milder climate, this side of the boundary. Our Pacific Northwest is fortunate in having so able and enterprising an exponent of its interests as The Oregonian.

"Reasonably Certain" to Pass.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition Company, which will hold its fair in Portland, Or., in 1905, has just issued the first number of its official publication. Its name is the Lewis and Clark Journal. It will be issued every month until the close of the fair and promises to tell the country what the Exposition company is doing, what it expects to do between this time and the opening of the Fair in 1905, and to show the attitude taken toward the projects by Congress and the Legislatures of the various states. A bill for an appropriation for the Fair is before Congress and is reasonably certain to pass. The whole West, especially the trans-Mississippi section, favors it. It will receive votes in the South and East. President Roosevelt is strongly in favor of an adequate appropriation by Congress for the Fair. The Lewis and Clark Journal ought to be able to tell an interesting story to its readers from this time to the close of the exposition.

Treason to the Delegation.

Seattle Times.

Evidently Oregon and California have some influence at the National capital. Anyhow San Francisco and Portland scooped in the entire contract for hay and oats for the Philippines while the Washington Senators were entertaining their friends in popular restaurants. It seems to us that we have heard that Senator Foster knew more about lumber than about statecraft—and it may turn out that his colleague knows more about raising horses and cattle in Eastern Washington than about attending to the affairs of the state. California has about as much right to contest for Government supplies of this character as Washington has to contest for a supply of "oranges and lemons." The whole performance is too ridiculous to be treated seriously—except that this single act may become a precedent and the Puget Sound country left out in the cold altogether. Certainly it is nonsense for Seattle commission men to bid against similar men in Portland and 'Frisco if the latter are to have the support of the United States Senators, while the former get no support at all from Washington Senators. This is a mighty big hint to the Chamber of Commerce.

Gloss on Mr. Dunlway's Interview.

Providence Journal.

The decision of the Oregon Supreme Court that the initiative and referendum amendment adopted by the people of that state is constitutional clears the way to the beginning of an experiment in government the duplicate of which has not been tried anywhere else in the world. The scheme goes beyond even that which has long been in operation in Switzerland. Under the initiative power it is now to be permitted to 8 per cent of the voters of the state to propose any constitutional amendments they may see fit, and these proposed amendments must be submitted to the electors at the next general elections; if a majority of the votes are cast in favor of the amendments they at once become part of the constitution; popular enactments in that form are beyond the control of any power except that of the Constitution of the United States, and this, under our form of Federal Government, is a very limited supervision indeed. It is now possible for the people of Oregon to change their constitution in its most vital features in a little over four months' time. This seems almost startling from the traditional Rhode Island point of view. But for this very reason, as well as because the same innovation has of late been urged upon Rhode Islanders with a never-discouraged persistence from certain tiresome quarters, the working of the experiment in the far Northwestern State will be watched here with special interest.

THE HOLY ROLLERS.

A Holy Roller in his wedding garments probably feels like a fly just rising from luncheon in the syrup jug.—Albany Herald.

Oregon tarred and feathered her "Holy Rollers." It was an expression of Oregon's desire to redeem herself.—Whatcom Reveille.

The Appeal is not an advocate of riot or lynch law; neither does it uphold the use of tar and feathers, but when such characters as the so-called Holy Rollers make themselves conspicuously monotonous with their idiotic conduct, it is high time to resort to force, since there seems to be no better method of preventing such foolishness.—Silverton Appeal.

Corvallis citizens, driven to desperation by the nightly orgies of the Holy Rollers, resorted to extreme measures last Monday night when they pounced upon them and treated two of the "apostles" to a coat of tar and feathers. Such acts cannot be condoned. Regardless of what acts the Holy Rollers did, the citizens were not justified in the extreme measures to which they resorted. The "chosen few" were not guilty of any avert act that would justify the people inflicting such unusual punishment.—The Dalles Times-Mountaineer.

The public as a whole do not appreciate freaks in religious matters. The good old-fashioned religion is good enough for them. Hence, when such people as the Holy Rollers and sometimes others not much more holy appear, they are apt to get the ill-will of the people and do a great deal of harm to the cause of religion. Recently while in Portland the writer saw a woman on a street corner talking to the passing throng, vehemently giving her views on religious questions, with an exhortation. What she said possibly may have been all right, but the manner and style of presenting it created ridicule, and more harm than good was done. This is often the case.—Albany Democrat.

While the administering of a coat of tar and feathers to the Corvallis Holy Rollers seemed a very harsh treatment, it would be difficult to conceive a more appropriate punishment for the persistent indulgence of their idiotic and disgusting antics in the name of religion. There is a limit to what a community can endure of this sort of thing, and as the Statesman said while some weeks ago discussing the extravagant fanaticism of these unbalanced "apostles," the public should take them in charge and permanently suppress their exhibitions. There are a thousand men and women in the asylum here today who have never at any time shown the same symptoms of irrecoverable idiocy as these spectacular Holy Rollers. Their insane doings have been a travesty on religion and a burlesque on common sense.—Salem Statesman.

New England's Opportunity.

Springfield Republican.

Those things which make Mr. Olney strong everywhere would give his candidacy power in New York State. It is a name that would grow and not wane before the people. Thus the Democrats of New England have their opportunity.

IF AGUINALDO WOULD COME.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

A petition is before the Philippine government asking that Aguinaldo be appointed a member of the commission to represent the Philippine Islands at the St. Louis Exposition. Those who ask Aguinaldo's appointment are not interested in lionizing the leader of the rebellion of 1899, but believe a visit to this country would do him good and give an added element of interest to the Philippine exhibition.

Aguinaldo, since he took the oath of allegiance to the United States, has conducted himself with propriety. While many of his subordinate chiefs in rebellion have been given responsible positions under the civil government, Aguinaldo has held no office of any kind. The Filipinos who are urging his appointment as Commissioner to St. Louis contend that the appointment would have little significance in the way of fixing Aguinaldo's official status, while it would be a mark of the Government's confidence in him.

If Aguinaldo should come to the St. Louis Exposition, he would learn that some of his friends in this country have not behaved as well as himself. He would learn that a score of men among 80,000,000 of people are still fighting the battle here which he lost in the field, and that, while he surrendered and swore allegiance to the United States, his friends here are still making war on the Government.

If Aguinaldo should come to the United States he would learn what a great Nation it was that bore patiently with his misdoing, and would realize the futility of the leadership in this country that encouraged him in resistance to the policy that has given his people peace and stable government.

If Aguinaldo should come he might wonder at the curiosity of the average American, but his vanity would not be inflated, and he would return to the Philippines sorry that the anti-imperialists of the United States were ever counted his friends.

Louisiana Purchase Stamps.

Springfield Republican.

The Postoffice Department is to issue a new set of postage stamps this year, commemorating the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. This custom brings the Government a large sum of money because so many collectors buy the stamps, as well as people who wish to have an artistic and inexpensive souvenir of the Exposition. Much money was made on the Pan-American stamps, but they were not exactly successful as far as their artistics qualities went. The Louisiana Purchase stamps promise to be more satisfactory, and the subjects to be presented on them are interesting. The one-cent stamp will have the portrait of Robert R. Livingston, who conducted the negotiations for the purchase as United States Minister to France; the two will have the portrait of President Jefferson, and the three that of President Monroe, who was associated with Mr. Livingston in concluding the diplomatic matters. The five-cent stamp will bear the portrait of President McKinley, and the ten will be of historical interest, as it will have a little map of the territory bought from France in 1803.

Good Record of London Theaters.

New York Herald.

It is interesting to note the precautions against fire that are enforced by law in England, together with the statement of Sir Algernon West that since 1858 not one life has been lost in a properly licensed London theater save that of a fireman who perished at the Alhambra more than 20 years ago.

A vital point is that all the draperies and scenery must be rendered non-inflammable. In New York the responsibility for public supervision is tripartite divided among the police, fire and building officials. There is one private inspection that covers all points and which is inspired by personal interest to make that inspection scientific and thorough, namely, that of the insurance companies.

The reports made by the surveyors of these companies and by which the rates of insurance are fixed according to risk ought to be made public. Their publication would serve as a check on the several city officials concerned and would encourage managers to bid for patronage by making their theaters safe.

Corn Harvested in 1864.

Chicago Chronicle.

One of the unique exhibits at the World's Fair by an Indiana man will be several bushels of corn that was harvested in 1864. L. J. Pence, one of the pioneer settlers of Grant County, has nearly 100 bushels of this grain that is in an excellent state of preservation. It was placed in an open crib when gathered and has remained there for forty years without being given any special treatment, other than to allow the air to pass through it at all times.

Mr. Pence is 75 years of age and came to Indiana from Ohio fifty-four years ago. He entered the land on which he now lives, and when he started to work in the wilderness had nothing but an ax and ten cents. With the ax he constructed a cabin in which he lived for years. He was married four years after he erected the cabin, reared a large family and now has 320 acres of the best land in the county. He boasts of never having taken a drink of intoxicating liquor or used tobacco in any form during his life.

Mellow Wisdom of the Very Young.

New York Sun.

The Princes in the Tower felt their situation keenly.

"That parson was right," said the elder; "these apartment palaces don't seem to be conducive to home life."

Hereupon they wished they had kept on better terms with their Uncle Richard.

William Tell was engaged in his little feat of marksmanship.

"I do hope," muttered the precocious infant—"I do hope Pa will find the apple better than he does the keyhole!"

However, as William never told this among the bright sayings of his son, it was nearly lost to posterity.

The Babes in the Wood had just been lost.

"It wasn't our fault at all," they declared; "we simply followed the directions of a floorwalker!"

With so obvious an explanation, it was hard, indeed, to blame the little things.

The One Man.

New York Times.

In spite of his publicly proclaimed and irrevocable decision not to permit his name to be used in discussions concerning the Democratic candidacy this year, ex-President Cleveland is too conspicuously the man for the times and the place to escape the frequent mention of his possible candidacy. With his wish not to be made a candidate his party will necessarily comply. But it is symptomatic of popular dissatisfaction with the extravagant and disquieting activities of President Roosevelt that Mr. Cleveland, who is in so many and such distinguishing ways his opposite, should be continually pointed to as the strongest man the Democrats could nominate.

Government Contracts Ignored.

Boston Globe.

Rear-Admiral Bowles, lately chief constructor of the Navy, says that at least five of our battleships are a year behind, chiefly owing to the delays in the delivery of ordnance. So great is the demand for structural steel that the Government contracts have become comparatively insignificant and little attention is paid to them. Admiral Bowles declares himself opposed to giving bonuses to contractors as a means of securing rapid work on warships. It operates as a sort of "tip" in which the Government finally gets no waiting upon at the banquet of industry without what is rather like blackmail.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Funny how the rhinoceros keeps sober with a horn continually above its nose.

The negro who got 14 years for robbery came as near turning white as he ever will.

Reports from China show that conversion does not impair the Mongolian's fighting powers.

England will not admit women to the practice of law. The dear creatures are above the law anyway.

The Seattle Times groans that Puget Sound's first taste of the Panama Canal is the ordering of all ships from the navy-yard. Here is breadth of view.

It is said that one of the provisions of the Anglo-Japanese treaty expressly prohibits Alfred Austin from writing odes in commemoration of Japanese victories.

In the Police Court at Spokane a prisoner recently appeared whose Christian name was Uno. This furnished material for much jocularity on the part of the officials and the reporters. "What's your name?" "Uno." "How should I know?" And so on.

Spokane is annoyed that a site near Tacoma should be chosen for Army encampment purposes. The inland city should remember that the first requisite of such a place is quiet and freedom from disturbance.

To say that war between Russia and Japan means good times for this country is like saying that a storekeeper selling revolvers to two customers who kill one another is better off than if he had held their steady trade.

The trial of a case in Seattle reveals the fact that policemen are permitted to drink while on duty, although they are fined if they get a jag on. Perhaps the numbers worn by each Seattle cop is to show the number of drinks he can take without crossing the jag line.

After years of toil a Tacoma laborer had accumulated $1000. He spent most of it on a long and lurid spree, with the result that he is now crazy and roaming the woods mit nodings on. The moral of this seems to be that it is better to spend your savings on small jags as you go along.

A correspondent (who has not yet been carried out by the young men) sends a copy of a notice which he says is posted near Milwaukie.

LOST—Von calf. Von redt calf mit vite calf mit his 2 behind legs plack. He vos a she calf. Any pody vot prings me dot calf pack pays 5 tollars. Hans Bogul, Bear Creek Bridge, 3 miles behind der Boat Office.

Now that the solt machine is smiled upon by the authorities, why do not some of our hustling railroad men take it up? There would be a boom in ticket-selling right away. Give a certain number of miles of transportation for each winning hand, and receipts would go up enormously. There would be a huge profit even if the machines were on the square, and if they were "fixed" the cost of running trains and of maintaining a track could be done away with altogether, for every one would go broke without winning a ticket.

In a ballad given on this page yesterday we are given some light as to what Punch considers Oregonians eat and what our dialect is like. "Emerson K., Washington," informs "Sade Q. Van Potts" that his love has destroyed his appetite. He has ceased to care for "ham and eggs (Virginia style)" and is not tempted by "strawberry shortcake" or "Boston beans, served hot." "Oyster stew" he waves aside. That is not a bad list. Although Punch has forgotten Oregon fruit and chinook salmon, it evidently knows that this is a land of plenty. As to our dialect, here is Punch's idea of it:

> His speech was scarcely finished, when quoth Sadie, Waal, I vum!
> What, marry you, my Emerson? I calculate! Why, some!
> Stray travelers in Oregon will soon be mighty sick;
> Ring up the parson on the 'phone, and get it over slick."

The best girl that responded with "Waal, I vum!" would make her lover happy.

To display a large diagram of the house on the curtains in theaters would certainly be useful, and in most cases it would be gratifying to the artistic sense of the playgoers. It is possible that the contemplation of a plan showing many good seats would enrage the man who had been jammed into the last row, and that the man with a pillar in front of him would care not what was on the curtain. Luckier persons, however, could amuse themselves by working out the easiest route of escape from any seat in the house, and they would not be compelled to gaze upon the grotesque scenes and figures that now stare them in the face. There is the presentment of Monaco, for example, at the Marquam. Were that and the man with legs 10 feet long replaced by an unimaginative and accurate plan of the house, do you not think that two good ends would have been served? And those kids that painfully assume the pose of a dance at Cordray's, would they be missed? And the Baker's view of the "Holy Land" that makes you sympathize with the disciples that had to live in it, who would mourn its loss? Utility demands the diagram, and Art approves it.

On this topic it might be remarked that the preparatory influence might be developed. Is the play a tragedy?—then have the diagram on a black ground. Is it a comedy?—on pink. Scarlet would prepare us for Sapho, and white for a musical comedy—perhaps. WEX. J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

"The fact is, my husband doesn't seem to know his own mind." "Oh, that's a very small matter."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Terence, what is the doctor's diagnosis of your case?" "He hasn't told me yit, but I'm bettin' it'll be t'ry cint av tin dollars."—Chicago Tribune.

"Perdy's rich uncle must be dead; he's cracking jokes ad libitum." "Yes; and must have left him lots of money; everybody is laughing at them."—Puck.

"Oh, I've got a winner—something absolutely new!" cried the playwright. "What's that?" "A fat villain that smokes a pipe instead of the customary cigarette kind."—Chicago Evening Post.

"Look lak Bre'r Jinkins is in hard luck, lately." "What happen ter him now?" "Hattlesnake bit him twice yistiddy, an he didn't have mo' dan