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TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy, with occasional rain, possibly part snow; brisk winds, mostly southerly.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 38 deg.; minimum, 25. No precipitation.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SALEM.

In the recent municipal campaign in the City of Salem one of the strong arguments of the Republicans was that their ticket had been nominated at a direct primary and that the nominees were the choice of the whole party and not of any clique of bosses. The members of the party were evidently very well satisfied with the candidates chosen in this manner, for almost the entire ticket was elected in opposition to a citizens' ticket. The Citizens' administration had given a satisfactory administration for five years, and was ousted only by the unification of the Republican party in Salem. Salem Republicans revolted against ring rule and the party gained control again only after a plan had been adopted by which every candidate and every member of the party had a fair chance to be heard. The Citizens' campaign managers admitted that the Republicans had named a ticket of good, clean men.

The workings of the direct primary nominating system in Salem show something of what can be gained by the adoption of that method of choosing party candidates. No man who aspires to a place on the ticket and is defeated can say that he was turned down by a ring. The members of the party and not the bosses made up the ticket, and no manipulation can prevent the man who has the greatest popular support from being the nominee. Under the direct nominating system there can be no excuse for a man bolting his party ticket. There seems to be no reason why the direct nominating system should not work as well in county and state affairs as it did in the Salem city election. The direct nominating system is not offered as a cure for all political ills. Under the best system of choosing candidates there will be imperfect results. The friends of the proposed law claim that it is an advance over present methods, and this is enough to commend it to favorable attention.

COMMENDABLE DILIGENCE.

The diligence with which the Child Labor Commission is striving to carry out the letter and spirit of the child labor law is deserving of all praise. If this law is meddlesome, as asserted by some, the best way to secure its revision upon points wherein it transcends the province of law is to urge its strict enforcement. If it is meddlesome, burdensome or impertinent in the assumption of a public function over the private rights of the individual, it will not be able to withstand the disfavor of the public beyond another session of the Legislature. If wholesome in its provisions and equitable in its operation; if, with a long look into the future, it insures the decrease of juvenile crime followed by a substantial decrease in the criminal population a generation hence, it will be upheld, and after a few years of experiment and opposition the work of the commission charged with the duty of seeing that this law is enforced will become relatively easy.

Let the child labor law, therefore, be strenuously enforced. If it is a good law we want it; if a meddlesome law, we want to know it. There is but one way to establish the facts in the case, and that way the Child Labor Commissioners are treading with determined step. Furthermore, as an object-lesson in the enforcement of what is known as reform legislation the work of the Child Labor Commission is interesting. The activity displayed challenges the admiration of even the opponents of the law. No inoperative statute this, but one with a vigorous working power behind it. The anti-cigarette law, if thus championed, would be enforced.

The lawmaking body, being human, not infrequently makes mistakes. Overborne by the pressure of the individual reformer, or the entreaties of the earnest man or woman with an idea, it sometimes gives its sanction to laws of doubtful wisdom and practicability. If public opinion does not support the letter of the law, its spirit dies within it; it becomes a dead statute, and, embalmed in public indifference, retains its place by simple sufferance upon the state's statute-books. What a rattling of dry bones, followed by an awakened interest in public affairs, would follow an official determination equal to that displayed by the Child Labor Commission, to enforce our practically inoperative laws! What urgent demands for the repeal of laws deemed meddlesome, inexpedient and officious would follow such an awakening! The example that the Child Labor Commission has set in this direction is a worthy one, and one that, if generally followed by those charged with the enforcement of law, would in a few years winnow out our silent laws or give them standing before the public, to which all law is entitled.

THE RESPONSIBILITY ON JAPAN.

It begins to be pretty clear that if there is war in the Orient, Japan will have to begin it. Russia does not desire the responsibility of opening the struggle; the Czar himself is a lover of peace; it suits Russia's purposes better to delay than to precipitate matters, and the Jew financiers of Europe have apparently made it impossible for her to borrow any more money. Russia has made such good progress through diplomacy that she prefers to continue in that way, rather than take her chances in war, and she realizes that her relative advantage over Japan is likely to increase with time. She is seeking, therefore, to placate the Japs with the fewest possible concessions.

The decision, accordingly, rests with Japan, and it certainly looks as if the game little power is determined to join the issue. The war feeling runs high and may at any moment sweep the government into hostile operations. Japan can raise her own funds, for a considerable period, at least, and the people, especially the army, seem to be imbued with a sublime assurance of success. Japan has been growing very restive under Russian aggression, and has cultivated an exalted pride and self-confidence since the result of the war with China. Her resentment at the settlement then, with its advantage to Russia, is natural and not discreditable; and the merits of her present rather cocky attitude can be determined only upon trial. It is not reassuring that the more pacific Russia grows, the more anxious Japan seems for war. In such a mood she may easily overreach herself.

The fact is that Russia's ostentatious preference for peace and Japan's eagerness for war, however flattering to Japan's national pride and conducive to applause from the galleries, can hardly fail to inure to Japan's disadvantage, once blood begins to flow and the peace of Europe is menaced. Europe will feel like saying to Japan: "You were determined to get into this mess, were you? Well, now let us see how you are going to get out." The treaties and alliances the belligerents have with other great powers seem, when reduced to their lowest terms, to conserve, not the interests of either Russia or Japan, but the peace of Europe, or the balance of the powers. France will come to Russia's aid in case Great Britain or Germany takes the field for Japan. On the other hand, Great Britain will help Japan, so Mr. Balfour explains the treaty, in case France joins Russia.

This means, of course, that European powers have little or no notion of getting hurt in this struggle. The reluctance of Great Britain, especially, should exert a restraining influence upon Japan, and there can be little doubt that this has been the conscious hope and aim of British diplomacy. Now if in spite of the restraining hand of Great Britain, Japan insists on going to war, the sympathy she can count on from British sources will be appreciably less than might otherwise have been expected.

The reluctance of Great Britain to aid Japan will be generally accepted in this country as a mistake; for it is certainly to Great Britain's interests to resist Russian aggression by every means at command. For this British hesitation no adequate explanation has been offered. It is partly due, no doubt, to the dread felt by the commercial interests for war at any time; but is probably related closely also to the apprehension with which the empire's future is regarded—an apprehension not allayed by Mr. Chamberlain's calamity campaign, the cost and bereavements of the Boer War, and the general conviction of the civilized world that Russia's advance in Asia is not to be checked by Japan, war or no war.

THE JETTY MUST BE COMPLETED.

No lead line has yet fathomed the depths of that wild mass of water that rushes through the narrow chasms at Celilo. When Nature permitted the waters of the Columbia to break through the Cascade Mountains, she placed a decidedly small limit on the width of the channel which the big stream was to occupy, but there was no limit to the depth. The bulk of water swelled into vast proportions by the accumulations of thousands of streams that had drained millions of square miles of territory, encountering this narrow gateway, in effect, turned up on edge, slipped through at terrific speed, and, emerging west of the barrier, spread out into its former shape, and at a more leisurely gait proceeded seaward. Thus was demonstrated that the waters of the big stream could be forced to scour out a channel of great depth if confining barriers of sufficient strength to hold it were provided.

After providing a way through the Cascades for the Columbia, Nature permitted the stream to wander on to the Pacific without encountering any more barriers of consequence. At intervals, however, she placed forbidding cliffs and rocky banks which restrained the stream from spreading too far. One of the first of these barriers encountered below Portland is the rocky formation extending from St. Helens well down toward Columbia City. The river at this point made no headway in eating in on the rocky wall on the Oregon shore, but it spread out toward the Washington shore to such an extent that St. Helens bar was for more than a quarter of a century the worst obstruction in the river. Then the engineers, taking their cue from what Nature had done at Celilo, erected a stanch breakwater on the Washington side. The river immediately adapted itself to the bounds set by these barriers, artificial and natural, and today the largest ships afloat would strike no obstruction in crossing what was formerly St. Helens bar.

Another of Nature's barriers stands at the foot of that magnificent stretch of water below Walker's Island. The deepest ships glide along under the rock walls of Bunker Hill, with a hundred feet of water beneath their keels. At numerous other points along the river Nature has erected the necessary barriers for one side of the river, and wherever man has placed a suitable dyke to complete the restriction of the river's movements, a deeper channel has always been secured. As a result of this work, coupled with dredging at points where permanent dykes have not yet been erected, Portland today has the best channel that has ever existed between this city and Astoria.

Unfortunately, the bar at the mouth of the river is not so well under control and is showing a poorer depth relatively than the river. Past attempts to confine the water at the mouth of the river have demonstrated that the jetty, which is practically the same in principle as the dykes or breakwaters built in the river, will control the movements of the big volume of water, and by narrowing its bounds, increase its depth. This is no longer a theory. We have had actual experience with the jetty, and that experience is a guarantee that all of the water that will be needed on the bar can be secured by extending this barrier farther out to sea. The money now available for this work is insufficient to enable the completion of the jetty to a point where the best results will be possible. Much of that now available would be practically lost if the work once started should be permitted to lag before it is completed.

It is accordingly imperative that all possible pressure should be brought to bear to secure funds sufficient to admit of uninterrupted work on the jetty. The amount now available will only carry the jetty to a point 4000 feet from the terminus selected by the engineers. The failure to complete this 4000 feet may nullify all of the good that might result from the expenditure of the money now available. The dredge Chinook will be a valued aid to the jetty, but the time has arrived when permanent improvements are an absolute necessity, and thus far the jetty system has proven the nearest approach to a permanent guarantee of deep water of anything that has been tried. This is a matter in which every producer in the Columbia Basin is interested, and the work of securing the money needed should not be delayed until the present appropriation is exhausted and the waves of the Pacific are battering down an unfinished structure, adding a shameful waste to inexcusable neglect.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The hanging of two men in this state within a period of eight days will start a protest among a certain class of people against capital punishment. The arguments offered against the death penalty are well known and need no repetition here. In answer to any theories that may be advanced to the contrary, it is sufficient to say that in states where capital punishment has been abolished there has been no decrease in crime, but in some cases murders have increased. In several states capital punishment was once abolished and afterward restored, because of the increased number of homicides. Certainty of punishment commensurate with the crime exercises a very deterrent influence.

The execution of murderers at the State Penitentiary should have a very wholesome effect upon the prisoners confined in that institution. While none of the convicts witness the execution, all are aware of what has taken place, and in the solitude of their cells they have abundant opportunity to reflect upon the consequences of continued violation of law. New prisoners who are received from time to time bring in the latest criminal news. If a murderer is to be hanged, the day and the hour are known to every man within the prison walls. When the appointed hour has arrived and the whole prison is as quiet as a graveyard, every convict must be deeply impressed with the thought of what is taking place in the execution chamber near by. Men who have refused to recognize any right except might will learn a much-needed lesson when they see right quietly but surely demonstrating its might, and they will have respect for the laws of organized society.

The purpose of hanging is not to wreak vengeance upon the murderer but to prevent others from committing a similar crime. For the accomplishment of this end no better place could be chosen for conducting executions than the State Prison, where several hundred criminals are confined. Whether viewed from the standpoint of economy, convenience or public welfare, the change in the place of execution is a desirable one.

THE HANDICAP OF PATERNALISM.

A man whose talents enable him to command a salary of $100 per month in any industrial occupation will hesitate before relinquishing such a position for an easier berth with the Government at the same salary. If the man possesses merit, he has an indefinite lease on his commercial position, and changing politics and changing employers will not disturb him or place his position in jeopardy. His own efforts and his own work keep him in this position, independent of any outside assistance, or "pull." He is undisturbed by political assessments and the ever-recurring periods when the "outs" supplant the "ins." In short, his mind is free to produce the best results because it is unvexed by the possibilities that are ever before the man affected by the changing fortunes of the political parties. This naturally is a reflection on the political system which permits merit where it exists to be shoved aside to make way for spoilsmen. It is a condition, however, and not a theory, that we are facing, and the man who abandons a position in commercial life for one with the Government at the same salary in most cases expects to even up for the slight sacrifice of independence by doing less work. In short, he expects the Government to pay him more for the same amount of work than he can command by his own ability.

Here, in effect, is a confession that he is too weak to cope with the competition of the industrial world, and seeks a subsidy for his labors with the Government. Slightly different in its workings, but with the underlying principle, or rather lack of principle, of getting something for nothing, is the proposed ship subsidy matter. The market for freight and passenger carriers, like the market for labor, should be governed by the laws of supply and demand, which regulate trade the world over. These laws are well understood by the trade, and will naturally work out the shipping problem on legitimate lines without Government interference or aid. They will in the end leave the very men who now seek subsidies in a more independent position. They can work farther ahead and lay out plans which they know will not be disturbed by political complications and restrictions which might affect the subsidy.

No stronger evidence of the worthlessness of subsidies has ever been offered than that of Mr. Emil L. Boas, general manager of the Hamburg-American steamship line, a concern employing 127 ships of 637,091 tons and operating on thirty-five different routes in all parts of the world. This fleet has grown from twenty-six vessels of 66,000 tons in 1886, and, with the exception of a subsidy paid by the government for the operation of two steamers in the Eastern Asia service in 1900, it has received no subsidy whatever from any source. Two years' experience under the subsidy, where only two vessels were involved, were sufficient, and the vessels were withdrawn, the company, in the language of Manager Boas, "preferring to maintain its own service to Eastern Asia without government restrictions." An explanation of this wonderful growth without subsidies is found in the memorial of the Hamburg Merchants' Society protesting against granting subsidies. It says in part:

> The growth and prosperity of National trade are, before all, created by the natural talent and disposition of a people. Governmental measures, whether they consist in throwing artificial obstacles in the way of foreign competition or in direct support of the National flag, may here and there bring temporary advantages to individual enterprises, but they will never be able permanently to raise and elevate the shipping interest. On the contrary, as experience has shown in France, they paralyze individual energy, and endanger the spirit of enterprise, and effect the decline, if not the ruin, of trade. In the interest of German commerce and of the National flag the Hamburg merchants most earnestly and respectfully pray that all Governmental measures for their protection be definitely set aside.

This is a protest based on actual experience. The Hamburg-American line has been pre-eminently the greatest single factor in the growth of the big German port. The ships of that line are today going to the uttermost ends of the earth in search of business, and are building up a trade unaided by subsidies and unhampered by the restrictions that accompany them. Paternalism in some lines of government may be excusable, but in nearly all cases, whether applied to individuals or industrial enterprises, it kills ambition, self-reliance and independence.

The efficacy of self-help is shown in the practical eradication of "scab" from the flocks of Montana, while in the States of Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado, where sheepowners hang back for Federal aid, it still exists. The sheepmen of the latter states overwhelmingly favor Federal dipping of sheep for the eradication of this disease, while those of Montana prefer to deal with it directly through the state veterinary officers. The American Sheepbreeder recently asked the opinion of 10,000 woolgrowers west of the Mississippi River in regard to "Federal dipping." From the replies received, that journal finds that fully three-fourths of the sheepmen of the Western country would hail Federal control with satisfaction. Those of Montana belong to the dissenting one-fourth. An example of the reasoning of these is furnished by the answer of Colonel J. H. Rice, of Montant, to the question above noted, in which he says:

> If you will examine the laws touching eradication of scab in Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Montana and then realize that Montana alone has been successful, you will understand why our sister states have not been more successful. When a case of scab is reported to our veterinarian he sends a deputy at once, and if he is not perfectly satisfied that the owner can and will properly handle the sheep, he takes them out of his hands and cleans them. The deputy is allowed $5 a day. This and all other expenses is charged up to the sheep.

Sheep husbandry is one of the industries that has grown prosperous enough to take care of itself. It is gratifying to find that some of the men engaged in it believe this and think that the expenses incident to its success should "be charged up to the sheep."

"Fighting Bob" Evans informs the Navy Department that the worst drawback to discipline in his command has been the excessive use of alcoholic drinks. To remedy this he recommends the establishment of canteens in the Navy where beer and light wines may be sold to the men. Evans was always credited with a strong desire to stir up a row, and with this suggestion he will probably succeed. There are large numbers of people throughout the land who are so well equipped with misinformation and immature knowledge regarding the sailor and the soldier that they will be shocked by the proposal, and they will proceed to communicate the shock to the department. The loudest complaint regarding sailor abuses is always heard from those who know nothing of ships and the sea. The protests against the canteen have likewise emanated from people whose knowledge of spirituous liquors is generally confined to unexplainable dislike for them, notwithstanding their usefulness under certain conditions.

The war in the Far East has supplied an excuse for all sorts of fortunate and unfortunate antics in the markets. About ten days ago New York reported a booming market on the strength of trouble beyond the seas. Last week there was a lighter trading in stocks, and again did the impending war do duty as an excuse. As for the wheat market, the chinch bug, the Hessian fly and all of the rest of the pests have never, even when working in company, given it so many heart-breaking turns as it has suffered since the Jap and the Russian began talking ugly to each other.

The frantic father over in Seattle who gave his child strychnine instead of magnesia the other night would be a more legitimate object of sympathy had he not kept the bottles that contained the two substances "side by side" on his dressing table. Common prudence stands aghast at carelessness so utterly inexcusable as this.

George Francis Train's brain has been examined by Dr. Edward C. Spitzka and Dr. Carleton Simon, and has been found to weigh 53.8 ounces. In a list which Dr. Spitzka keeps, is Turgeneff, with a brain weighing 71 ounces; Benjamin F. Butler, 62 ounces; and Daniel Webster, 53½ ounces.

Another Religious View.

Catholic Sentinel (Portland).

Sunday opening of the Centennial Exposition next year is forging to the front as a vital problem, and is engaging the earnest opposition of those that desire to proclaim their religiosity at all times and under all circumstances. It is, of course, well that undue activity be discontinued at the fair on Sunday. No unnecessary machinery should be permitted to run, and the day should be as quiet as may be.

It is, however, most unnecessarily puritanical to exclude the working people on the only day upon which they can with any convenience enjoy the exposition. It will not do to declare loftily that employers will be glad to let their men off on other days. They may do it once, but the workingman most probably would like to see the wonders of the world more than once during the Summer.

We have spent considerable sums of money on parks and like places of recreation. We do not endeavor to exclude people from them on Sunday. On the contrary, they are expected and exhorted to come on that day.

The exposition is presumed to be, if not primarily, at least in a high degree, educative. Its many wonders will be a delight to the senses and the mind, not once alone, but many times. This is not a question similar in character to the closing of saloons on Sunday. Rational enjoyment, so far from being harmful, is a positive good.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

Merely an Agent, Probably.

Cottage Grove Leader.

One of the freaks of prosperity is found in the announcement of a Southern Oregon editor that he has money to loan.

Pretty, No Doubt, But—

Moro Observer.

It well pays one to rise betimes these bright, frosty mornings. It would be hard to imagine a prettier sight when the white frost laces all the foliage and the landscape looks good enough to eat.

Product of the Atmosphere.

Eugene Record.

Herbert Johnson is a Eugene product and we have more like him. In fact, the very air surrounding Eugene is conducive to production of men and women of such self-sacrificing character.

Hofer's Opinion of Republican Party.

Capital Journal.

The Republican party in Oregon has for seasons remained in power more on account of the vices of bad leadership and sins of omission on the part of the opposition than by any positive merits or virtues of its own.

Declination and Effect.

Woodburn Independent.

Simon declares he is not a candidate for the United States Senate. The gentleman generally says just what he means. He certainly does not assume this attitude because he has no chance, for his star is again ascending. This declaration makes him stronger than ever.

Steunenberg's Renewed Activity.

Lewiston Teller.

The return of ex-Governor Steunenberg to political power in the Democratic party of Idaho as has been intimated in many sections of the state will probably be attended by some strenuous objections on the part of those who turned down the chief a few years ago and are not disposed to give up now without a struggle. Steunenberg belongs to the reorganizers and his return to control in Idaho would place this state out of the hands of the Bryan faction, and they could be counted to vote for Cleveland or some other of the reorganizers at the National Convention next July.

Remember the Workingman.

Harrisburg Bulletin.

A very large proportion of those who depend upon their daily wages to support their families, and who form links in the great industrial chain, cannot be spared from their posts to visit the 1905 Fair, except they are given opportunity through an open door on Sundays. It is suggested in this connection that these people, being a principal factor in the production of all the material wants of daily life, are entitled to consideration in this matter. To shut the door against them on Sunday, their only available time, would be a price out of all proportion to be paid for the gratification of the Sabbatarian.

There Are Others.

Salem Statesman.

United States District Attorney John Hall has returned from Washington, D. C., after a two weeks' absence, and reports that Senators Mitchell and Fulton and Representatives Hermann and Williamson are working hard and that "the people of Oregon should be grateful that their interests are served so well in Washington." Bue there are valid reasons for believing that Judge Moreland, and, perhaps, Mr. Brownell, may entertain just as exalted an opinion of the great services being rendered by our distinguished delegation in Congress as that expressed by the fortunate hold-over District Attorney.

Deserves a Better Fate.

Vancouver Independent.

The fact that no river and harbor bill will be introduced at this session of Congress, is a hard blow to Vancouver. Prospects for a liberal appropriation for the Vancouver project was never so bright before, and now comes the news that the river and harbor bill will go over to the next session. Coming at this time when Clark County is in the midst of a great lumbering industry, the news is particularly disheartening. But this seems to be Vancouver's luck. The river and harbor bill that was talked to death three years ago carried an appropriation for Vancouver of $18,000, while the bill passed at the next session gave us but $2000.

The Old-Timers' Preference.

Boise Statesman.

The vertical system of penmanship is now undergoing critical investigation in Salt Lake schools. This is in response to objections to the system raised by a number of business men who are very pronounced against it. Superintendent Christenson has determined to try a semi-vertical system in two of the public schools as an experiment. The objections are that the letters are too large, that there is not enough individuality in the various hands, and that there is not sufficient freedom of movement for speed. The system has been abandoned in the public schools of Los Angeles and is undergoing investigation in other leading cities of the Coast. The system produces a crop of plain writers, but the old-timers naturally prefer the Spencerian system, both for speed and beauty.

Rivers and Harbors Suffer.

Aberdeen Bulletin.

Representative Hermann, of Oregon, has protested strongly against the action of the Rivers and Harbors Committee in deciding not to report a river and harbor bill at this session. He stated to Chairman Burton that it was false economy, and that in most instances the damage from failure to continue improvements would cost more than the bill. We have also the suggestion that in the districts of a majority of the committee, the improvements under way are covered by contracts and will not suffer by reason of the failure to make additional appropriations. There is no doubt but that politics had much to do with the action of the committee and the pretended economy is but a play to the galleries. If political reasons governed the action of the committee, the best that can be said of it is that it is a cheap type of politics.

One Assessor's Fortitude.

Walla Walla Statesman.

C. P. Strain, assessor of Umatilla county, assessed the railroads in that county at $12,000 a mile and made his assessment stick, after a hard fight before the County Board of Equalization. In an able address delivered before the board, Assessor Strain proved that in most of the Eastern States railroads earning much smaller dividends that the roads traversing Umatilla county are assessed at from $25,000 to $50,000 a mile. According to a decision of the United States Supreme Court, the market value of a railroad's stocks and bonds may be considered in determining the value of a mile of track. In Walla Walla county and throughout the state, according to an agreement for uniform assessments of railroad property made by a state convention of assessors with free passes in their pockets, the highest rate per mile is $6500 for first-class trackage, and it runs as low as $2000 per mile for side tracks. Assessor Strain was also tendered a free pass, but in spite of that he had the honesty and independence to assess the railroads on the same basis as other classes of property. The Umatilla County Board of Equalization, although tendered free passes just as freely as they are given to county commissioners in this state, had the moral courage to sustain the assessment made by Mr. Strain. Too bad Washington could not have a Strain in every county to serve as assessor and an extra supply to serve as county boards of equalization.

DR. ANDREWS' DISMAL PROPHECY

Chicago Record-Herald.

In his efforts to justify the acceptance of financial aid from the head of the Standard Oil trust for the University of Nebraska Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews passed from a reference to trust methods to this cheerful and altruistic prophecy:

> Society, as it becomes more enlightened, will snuff out the lives of sickly and deformed infants, to prevent their becoming at maturity a burden to it and to themselves. As with the cradle, so it will be with other cases. A committee of skilled physicians, I firmly believe, eventually will determine the fate of those who are sickly, or whose recovery from disease is impossible. Such persons, if the physicians agree, will mercifully be put to death.

Of course a lot of allowances must be made for a man who is reaching out for a slice of the Standard Oil millions, but it is none the less regrettable that Mr. Rockefeller's offer to the University of Nebraska should have evoked such an inhuman and preposterous prophecy as this from its chancellor as an argument in favor of accepting the gift.

The idea of destroying the defective and derelicts of course is not a new one. But it is now, as always, a shocking one, and because great corporations crush out small ones it is folly to argue that human society will ever go back to a state of barbarism where it will deliberately destroy weak, crippled or blind babies.

As a matter of fact, the care and solicitude which such babies require sweeten and leaven the race. They are an inspiration to gentleness, teaching the human race to be kind and merciful. They help to keep the race from dropping to the level of the brute creation. The affectionate care bestowed by a family upon the crippled or blind member of the flock is an impressive sermon upon the common kinship and brotherhood of man.

We will not exterminate weak infants—not in this century. Even so scholarly a man as Chancellor Andrews cannot turn the hands of the clock backward.

Liked by Robust Democrats.

Mexican Herald.

Richard Olney, of Boston, who is much talked of at present as a possible Democratic candidate for President of the United States, will be recalled as the Secretary of State in President Cleveland's Cabinet who made a bold stand against Great Britain in the Venezuelan case. It was an audacious thing to do at the time and a great storm arose against Cleveland in the mugwump press and among the college professors. Few of them have yet really forgiven Messrs. Cleveland and Olney for their stand against "the mother country." Mr. Olney is not a young man now, but his brain is clear and his physical vigor unimpaired. He is of Presidential size intellectually, a great diplomatist, a man of remarkable political sagacity and a believer in the expansionists' doctrine with certain common-sense limitations. If Mr. Olney were nominated he would have the support of the robuster Democrats and of tens of thousands of wealthy Republicans who like his conservatism; he would be a candidate whose sturdy Americanism nobody could question. His name would be one of power in the land. He is a great Democrat, a patriotic American and a gentleman.

What Vaccination Did.

Philadelphia Press.

"I had a striking instance of the wonderful efficacy of vaccination brought to my attention last week," said a Philadelphia machinist to a Press man.

"One of the apprentices in our shop was taken ill with what the doctor pronounced ivy poisoning. After he had been in bed two weeks it was discovered that his disease was smallpox. The contagion quickly spread through all his large family, with one exception. This last was a younger brother, who had slept with the patient through the first two weeks of his sickness. He came off scathless simply because he was the only member of the family who had been vaccinated. I wonder what the anti-vaccination people would say to that?"

Value of Shade Trees.

Boston Transcript.

Superintendent Pettigrew's appeal for more shade trees in cities should not fall on deaf ears, as this is a matter in which the civic pride of the Bostonian should be aroused. Few people, it is feared, understand the commercial value of shade trees, but horticulturists who have experience assert that a well-grown shade tree has a commercial value of about $50. It will be seen, therefore, that the shade trees now in the streets of Boston represent a tangible asset of millions of dollars. And it should be remembered that each full-grown tree represents but a small original investment, the amount expended on each tree for planting and care being but a small proportion of what it soon becomes worth.

Infamy of Adulterating Drugs.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The adulteration of drugs is a double evil. It is not merely that the adulterants put into them what may be injurious to health, but even when this is not the case they may so detract from the efficacy of the medicine that it will not accomplish the purpose for which it is intended. A careful analysis of drug products which are largely intended for use in states other than those in which they are manufactured ought, therefore, to contribute essentially to the protection of the public.

The Elevator Man.

(Chicago Tribune.)

The elevator man—he knows a weighty lot of things;
He knows the inner purposes of statesmen and of kings;
He'll tell you why the weather man has missed it on his guess;
He'll tell you why the women wear the germ enticing dress;
He knows the politicians and will tell their every plan—
If you would know a thing, go ask the elevator man.

The elevator man dispenses news from floor to floor,
And every day surprises you because he knows some more;
He knows a cure for all the sorts and kinds of pains and aches,
And who goes on the carpet when the State-street cable breaks;
The prim stenographers who ride—Matilda, Jane or Fan—
Their first names are remembered by the elevator man.

He knows the horses racing, and the status of the track;
At getting information he possesses quite a knack—
If there should be a fire alarm he will not leave his seat,
But he will tell you where it is—the house and block and street;
He knows the population from Beersheba unto Dan;
He knows the drama's ins and outs—the elevator man.

He knows the tenants of the block—when they go up or down
He knows by looking at them if they walked or rode uptown;
He knows the price of corn and wheat, and how to kill the trusts;
He knows the names and pastimes of the top and under crusts;
He's better on percentages than any baseball fan;
He knows the time, without a clock—the elevator man.

The people get his knowledge as they come and as they go—
They ask the elevator man about each thing they want to know,
From the chances of a foreign war to leaving time of trains;
Unconsciously they all rely upon his busy brains,
The wisdom of the world is in his comprehensive scan—
If you are ignorant, go ask the elevator man.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The smart set is as fast as ever. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., holds the auto record.

Thousands of actors are said to be in hard luck in the Middle States. The public has a short memory for those that amuse it.

Despite the beneficent influence of our public schools, 99 out of every 100 middle-aged men spell "gnat" with a "k" instead of a "g."

Caspar Whitney assures the readers of the February Outing that he has no fears whatever for the safety of Leonidas Hubbard, who has been in Labrador for some months.

The people of Los Angeles are uniting in prayer for rain. The news doesn't sound so amusing as stories that Chinese are beating tom-toms to invoke the aid of some supernatural power against foreigners, but, after all, there is not a wide difference.

A Pendleton man stole 19 sacks of coal with which to play roulette. Since the rules of the house forbade the staking of anything but money on the tables, the coal had to be sold before the gambler could proceed. This deprived Pendleton of the spectacle of a man placing a sack of coal on a number.

When the school teachers come to tackle the questions in current history this month they will be up against a tough proposition. Suppose they are asked on Thursday what differences exist between Japan and Russia. If they have read Tuesday's news, they will learn a thousand points of difference, all of them denied and explained away on Wednesday.

A Spokane preacher prevented a panic by telling his congregation that a fire in the church was under control when it wasn't. This preacher's fib has excited more attention than it deserves; there are many preachers that con their congregation into the belief that they have certain eternal fires under control when they haven't.

London has a society known as the Dogs' Protective League. This organization trains women as nurses—not of men, but of dogs. Certificates of proficiency are granted after a period of probation, and the nurses are sent out to cases, just as are their sisters that look after human patients. "Those who have experienced the weariness of night-and-day nursing of some old favorite," naively adds the cable dispatch, "will greatly appreciate the chance of trained help at a moderate figure." And while the dogs are being nursed, the over-crowded hospitals are turning away human sufferers.

The Canadian customs officials refuse to permit the entry of show posters depicting scenes of violence. This is a very good idea on the part of the Canadians, and its application should be extended. Pictures in books should also be ruled off the turf, unless they depict simple domestic and pastoral scenes. Posters showing the strangling of Desdemona should be barred. The scene could be altered, and the Moor might be shown gently placing a chloroform-soaked handkerchief over the woman's face. There would be nothing violent about this. Indeed, a valuable moral would be inculcated, namely, that if you must kill someone, kill in a genteel manner.

In George Moore's paper on Walter Pater, published in February's Lippincott's Magazine, he says:

> At first sight it will seem to the casual critic that the omission of some of the qualifying clauses which overrun Pater's sentences would be a gain, but let him attempt to take away one, and he will see how necessary are these apparent redundancies. He wished to exhibit a mind full of wistful uncertainties, a mind that slowly unwinds, like soft silk, with many pauses and in a gentle twilight. We know that he wrote with difficulty, that each sentence was written out on a separate piece of paper; we know that he told Arthur Symons that it were well to read the dictionary so that we might learn what words to avoid, and when Arthur Symons pointed out a sentence he could not understand, a long, intricate sentence of ten lines or more, Pater examined it, comma by comma, a puzzled look upon his face all the while. At last he said, "I see the printer has omitted a dish."

The printer omitted a necessary dash and Pater omitted the necessary dash.

Mottoes in verse decorate the walls of a Washington-street restaurant. The customer is assured that

For cleanliness we've always stood,
Nor do we handle Chinese food.

A bovine paradise is pictured in this couplet:

Our butter's from Skamokawa,
Where cows eat grass the livelong day.

And a compliment is paid to the qualities of Oregon hens in this:

We never spare the least expense,
Our eggs are all from Webfoot hens.

It is not often that the intellect and the stomach are so thoroughly and simultaneously satisfied. A poetic league should be formed to encourage the use of similar mottoes. Members should not rest until every wall in every restaurant is covered with such cheerful and poetic assurances as

Our sausages are made from hogs,
We would not sacrifice our dogs.

WEX. J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Long—What, you owe $10,000? Doesn't it worry you? Short—Not in the least. I'm another $10,000 I'd like to owe, but I can't. That worries me.—Chicago News.

"Grace, can you tell me what is meant by a cubic yard?" "I don't know exactly, but I guess it's a yard that the Cuban children play in."—Boston Christian Register.

Critic—No, Mr. Smearly, you will never succeed as an artist. You can't draw. Smearly—Can't draw? What's that got to do with it? Ain't I in society?—Chicago Daily News.

"Impressionism," said the fiance, as he gazed ruefully at his powder-stained waistcoat where her fair head had rested, "may be all right, but it's a poor thing in engagements."—Princeton Tiger.

Miss Verisopht—Why wasn't Mrs. Tiarabump at the opera last night, I wonder? Miss Verjuice—She had such a cold that she couldn't speak above a whisper, so, of course, there was no use in her going.—Judge.

"What would you do," said the nervous person, "if a fire were to break out in your apartment-house?" "I'd go right downstairs and thank the janitor," answered the man who is always dissatisfied.—Washington Star.

"Gracious!" sighed Mr. De Spepsey, "I wish I could acquire an appetite." "For goodness' sake!" exclaimed his wife, "what do you want with an appetite? It would only give you more dyspepsia."—Philadelphia Press.

Young Ardup was looking over his accounts. "I find," he muttered, "I spent last year, $165.45 for beer and cigars and $75 for clothing. I must try to get along with fewer new clothes this year!"—Chicago Tribune.

"When an enemy smites me," said the pious-looking hypocrite, "I always turn the other cheek." "Why?" asked the man who knew him; "do you want your enemy to go around with both hands disabled?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

"We could easily rush in and storm the town and recover the rebellious state if it wasn't for one thing," said the valiant Colombian commander. "And what is the one thing?" the special correspondent inquired. "That United States marine standing guard on the corner there."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.