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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 69 deg.; minimum, 48. Precipitation, .01 inch.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers, south to west winds.

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1904.

"OFFICIAL" NEWS BY "WIRELESS."

We learn from the De Forrest wireless telegraph company, via the stationer H. Hamun, of the Korean coast, to this effect:

We have received official confirmation of the torpedo attack on Wednesday morning last, which resulted in the sinking of the Russian warship Potemkin.

What are the "official" sources whence the Hamun, of the Korean coast, obtains this important if true information? The Russian report is that the battleship was destroyed by a disconnected Russian mine, by a submarine boat, or else by an internal explosion.

The assertion of the De Forrest people, therefore, that the battleship was destroyed by a torpedo is without any basis whatever in truth. Why they should profess "official confirmation" of something that never happened is a mystery not worth going into, and not creditable to their trustworthiness.

How likely they are to get "official" confirmation of any sort in view of the Russian resolve to treat them as spies is apparent.

We have adverted to this matter solely because this is the outfit that has established (officially, no doubt) to Secretary Hay a "demand" that he protect them from the rule adopted by the Russian government.

Their demand would have a stronger claim on sympathy if they were the victims of a torpedo attack without any basis whatever in truth. Why they should profess "official confirmation" of something that never happened is a mystery not worth going into, and not creditable to their trustworthiness.

PLEA OF THE NATIVE BORN.

In the county conventions which were held last week by both the political parties in every county in the state, the "native son" argument was worked for all it was worth.

It may be worth while to add that with more adequate information the Transcript's argument might very naturally have been turned into a defense of the Lewis and Clark appropriation instead of an attack; for the House bill which became law provides exactly the protection which the Transcript sees as necessary.

There is nothing whatever to be said against the right of a native son to be a candidate for a place in the public service. If a man has lived 21 years or more in the community in which he was born, he has shown himself to be worthy of the confidence of his people, has made a success of his undertakings and has thereby demonstrated his ability in some particular line, he has earned the right to ask for such favors as the voters of his county have to bestow.

But there is a tendency in Oregon to place too much emphasis upon the fact that a candidate was born in this state. If we are trying to encourage our young men to lead lives of industry and uprightness, so also are we trying to induce residents of Eastern States to come here and make their homes.

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son have than to place worthy newcomers in places of trust? When a successful young man has sold his property in the East and has come here and bought anew, has identified himself with the best interests of his community, has shown himself capable and honest, for us to recognize his achievements by electing him to office is to assure others that they will be fairly treated if they come here to live.

"A STAND AGAINST EXPOSITIONS."

We have thought it best to reprint in The Oregonian from time to time the unfavorable comment as well as the favorable comment made by Eastern journals on the Lewis and Clark Fair, in order that our people may know hostile as well as friendly quarters, and in order to make a record complete.

The Transcript is not a great city, for Chicago and St. Louis are the scene of heavy financial losses, while Omaha and San Francisco made money.

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abode in the long, lazy-comparatively speaking—days of peace. The search for a really satisfactory substitute for wood will be greatly stimulated by the experience of those aboard the ill-fated Variaz.

Another point brought out in the destruction of the Variaz is the widespread damage done by shells exploding on a gun deck where the guns are not isolated. The Variaz was a cruiser of 6500 tons' displacement and her main armament consisted of twelve six-inch guns.

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serious matter for the men actually engaged in the business than they now are. Every man who has had much experience around State Legislatures is perfectly familiar with the objections that are always raised in certain directions whenever any fish legislation is asked for.

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SPRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

Don't Humiliate Us. Skamokawa Eagle. If the Portland bill team don't get moving soon, it will get a challenge from Skamok.

Still Likely to Need It. Aberdeen Recorder. "King County needs a Senator," declares the White River Journal. That's so. She also needs a poultice warranted to reduce a bad case of swelled head.

All for Hermann Now. Newberg Graphic. The fellow who wore Hermann men all the time doesn't know, though they had taken pains not to say so openly, are now more or less in evidence.

How Do You Manage It? Enterprise Democrat. Lostine enjoys the distinction of being the only town in Oregon that gives the women equal political privileges with the men—the right to vote, hold office and be the political boss.

Come On, Ladies, Who's Next? Condon Globe. If any fairly good-looking woman is suffering for newspaper notoriety all that is necessary is for her to get arrested in Portland in connection with the Oregon land frauds.

Almost Human Intelligence. Bellingham Herald. The queer trick that the types will play, when aided by the almost human intelligence of the compositor, and the erudite proofreader, is shown by a paragraph in yesterday's Herald which appeared as follows: "A weekly publication in Chicago is reported to be seeking a partner without any views."

Is This True? Marshfield Mail. Speaking of the proposed shipment of coal to Portland, A. E. Shaw, agent of the Alliance, says that his company would be glad to carry coal on the Albatross to Portland, if the boat could be given reasonable dispatch.

A Good Example. Prineville Review. The time draws near when Crook County will be called upon to contribute its share to the Lewis and Clark Fair to be held in Portland in 1906.

One of the Delegates. Eugene Journal. Our old friend, Dr. J. M. Keene, knows a thing or two about organizing Congressional conventions. We used to enjoy his visits at the State House immensely.

"Bob" Veatch Sees Snakes. Cottage Grove Leader. R. W. Veatch enjoyed his annual Spring hunt for rattlesnakes last week. Bob's annual raids on the dens of these once numerous reptiles in this vicinity have made them very scarce, and he is now compelled to visit far away and unfrequented rocky regions to engage in his favorite sport.

Looking Through Hill. Washington Post. Let the influences that are predisposed to co-operate for Democratic success have a fair chance. Don't compel the country to look through David B. Hill or any other man's eyes in order to see Chandler Parker.

Should Have Run Incognito. Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle. On the whole, we are now constrained to think William Randolph Hearst would have done better had he run for the Presidency incognito.

With Natural Result. Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle. It is very evident that somebody is trying to put out the Grover Cleveland blaze by throwing kerosene on it.

A STAND AGAINST EXPOSITIONS.

The Senate passed a bill in aid of the Lewis and Clark Exposition to be held in Portland, Or., in commemoration of the expedition conducted by those famous explorers, and sent it to the House. As passed by the Senate, the bill created a National Commission to supervise the exhibition, which is to be conducted internationally by authorizing the United States formally to invite the participation of other nations.

The participation of the United States was limited to the usual Government exhibition and to the coming of \$250,000 in gold sovereign dollars. Even in this radically modified form the bill had attracted the support of the House.

The stand taken against the continuance of Government aid to exhibitions was not the instance in which the House indicated a Congressional determination to scrutinize exhibition projects carefully and to vote public money only to those which are to be held under conditions that will give some promise of financial success.

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