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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 67 deg.; minimum, 54. Precipitation, none.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair and warmer; northwest winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1904.

TO BE A LEADING FEATURE.

The question is going to be pressed, in all the great manufacturing states, from the opening of the campaign of 1904 to the close thereof, whether the Democratic declaration as to protective tariff is to have the approval of the country, or not.

That declaration is in these terms, to-wit: "We denounce protection as robbery of the many to enrich the few." This is sufficiently explicit. If protective tariff is robbery it ought to be cut up, root and branch. The question then as to tariff is whether duties ought to be eliminated, or not; whether our custom-houses ought to be thrown open to foreign goods, not merely without thought of protecting any industry of our own, but positively for the express purpose of excluding protection.

Never hitherto has the United States adopted a policy like this. It has had higher and has had lower tariffs; but never has it enacted a law on the theory or assumption that "protection is robbery," and ought therefore to have no standing in legislation.

Situated as we are in the Pacific States, protection is of much less importance than in the older parts of the country, where manufactures are more highly developed. But even our Pacific States would not stand for the doctrine that "protection is robbery," with the consequence that all thought of it should be eliminated from the tariff laws. These states have commodities of value for which protection is insisted on; and will be yet for a long period—as the wool of Oregon, the coal of Washington and the fruits of California.

But if protection is not to be given up in these Pacific States, how will it fare in other states with the effort to abolish it? The multifarious manufactures east of the Mississippi, the farming and dairy interest along the Canada border, the sugar and rice of Louisiana and Carolina—the whole list of industries that profit or think they profit by protective tariff, in all or nearly all the states of the Union—in what spirit will they receive this declaration a few months hence, when the case must have serious consideration?

It is easy to frame an argument which will prove, as nearly as argumentative demonstration can, that protection ought not to exist. All may be summed up in the statement that it is wrong to use the power of government to interfere with prices, since under such policy some get advantage at expense of others. This is the academic argument, strong in its logic. But in experience and practice the results are not so simple. Opinion will fluctuate, now towards one view, now towards another, as weight is given on the one side to the academic argument and on the other to proofs from experience. The Oregonian realizes all the force of the argument against protection, yet is certain of this, that the people of the United States will not give up the policy. Or, at least, if they should make the experiment they would quickly be dissatisfied with the result and would return to protection.

But even the Democratic party, if it should get possession of full power, would not frame laws on the principle that "protection is robbery." It would not dare. Last time it had full possession of the Government it framed the most unequal and odious tariff law ever enacted. Favoritism to certain protected interests, and hostility to other interests, were its leading features. This was the act of "perfidy and dishonor" that President Cleveland denounced. Most of the great trusts are pledged to the support of Parker and Davis; and Davis was nominated chiefly because he is the man to "put up" himself and to make the others "whack up." It is from this quarter the assertion comes that "Roosevelt is an unsafe man."

Adverse criticism is sometimes encouraging to the criticised. Such criticism is that of a Vienna newspaper on the American Navy, which is in a bad way, according to the Austrian writer. In proof of this he digs up all the accidents that have occurred within the last few years and finds in them an indication that the American naval officers of high rank are incompetent. To another observer the opposite inference would be clear. In a navy of the size and of the activity of the American accidents are bound to happen, and the wonder is that they are not more numerous. The explosion on board the Missouri was the most serious, and that was indirectly caused by the spirit of emulation amongst the men. Defects in construction there have been, but less than might have been expected in a new navy. As a rule, American warships are better in every way than the specifications demand, and such steaming performances as those of the battleships Oregon and Kearsarge, to say nothing of the recent ocean cruise of the Asiatic squadron, are sufficient proof of unusual efficiency.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Again we hear that the Republican party is about to destroy constitutional government, and that the Democratic party again is providentially charged with protection and defense of this heritage of freedom and hope of mankind.

It is something musty; somewhat stale. The Democratic party has fits of quadrennial terror on this subject; but this party is beaten as the years go by, beaten again, and not allowed to save constitutional government. Yet somehow constitutional government survives from one quadrennial period to another, without loss of prestige or impairment of vigor.

The simple truth is that the only menaces to constitutional government which the country ever has known have come through the Democratic party itself. Through the action of the Democratic states the Civil War came. No menace to constitutional government could the solid Democratic states see from their own attempt to set the Constitution of the United States aside, and to set up a hostile Constitution in its place.

Moreover, the Northern Democratic party, in sympathy and more or less open alliance with the Southern Democratic party in rebellion, denounced as unconstitutional every effort to save the Constitution by reducing the assailants and enemies of the Constitution to submission. They forgot at that time that constitutional government was in danger, and they set partisanship above it.

Again, when the time came to take measures for support and maintenance of the money of the commercial world, the gold standard, this party held that unconstitutional, too. Constitutional government would fail, if silver were "dishonored." But just now we are informed officially by this party that the established monetary standard is not a possible issue in this campaign; and fear of the loss of constitutional government takes some other silly form or direction.

The reason why constitutional government remains with us lies in the fact that the Democratic party, whose policy tends continually to undermine it, at critical stages in the history of the country has been beaten. Thus constitutional government has been saved again and again.

THINGS MOVING IN WASHINGTON.

When certain Republican politicians engineered a scheme in the State of Washington for an early convention and a long campaign, the fear was almost universally expressed that ennui would seize the public before election day rolled around. The state convention was called in May and a full ticket named. Six long months would intervene before November. The voter might reasonably be expected to have a surfeit of campaign excitement in that protracted period. But so far the most exacting pessimist must admit that there has been no ground for complaint. The Campaign Lie bobbed up its head before the state convention was through with its memorable session, and it has since then had many busy days and has manifested itself in a most amazing variety of ways and under the most captivating guises.

Mr. Mead, a very estimable gentleman of Bellingham Bay, was up till last May a most highly respected citizen, enjoying alike the esteem of his neighbors and the regard of the public at large. But now Mr. Mead has learned that he is the efficient and unscrupulous instrument of corporation greed and the uncompromising enemy of that large and broad-minded portion of the public which proposes to enjoy itself as best it may on Sunday and every other day. So the Eastern Washington farmer, who works the soil, and the Eastern Washington politician, who works the farmer, propose on the one hand to make trouble for Mr. Mead, friend of the railroad cormorant, and the State Liquor-Dealers' Association on the other hand, under the benevolent guidance of Jimmy Morrison, philanthropist, will see to it that the rights of all citizens to drink and be merry seven days in the week (and mayhap seven nights) are not interfered with by any Puritan from Bellingham Bay.

Mr. Mead's qualities as a political strategist have been hitherto to fame unknown. But if he manages in the several strenuous months that are yet ahead of him to quell the rising storm in Eastern Washington and to lead the saloon-keepers of Western Washington into ways of peace, sobriety and content, then we shall say that he deserves all he can get out of four years at Olympia.

But the Bellingham statesman is not alone in the midst of the maelstrom. Mr. Coon, of Port Townsend, was nominated for Lieutenant-Governor. Just as soon as that high distinction had been conferred on that gentleman, the Campaign Lie got busy and evolved a somewhat indelicate yarn about him. Then, when the nauseous and disgusting details began to pall a trifle on the public palate, the Lie passed on to green fields, this time hovering for a while around the fireside of Mr. Rudkin, candidate for Supreme Judge. The consequent publication lacked somewhat the startling and sensational character of the Coon yarn, but it was sufficiently enjoyable to tickle even a jaded appetite. Rudkin, it seems, is married to a woman who was divorced from a former friend of the Judge—a fine opening for an industrious and ingenious Campaign Lie, of which as much as possible has been made.

All these are, we may grant, legitimate opportunities for campaign fact, fiction, fancy, fustian or whatever it may be; but it would seem to an interested onlooker that it is carrying things just a trifle too far when a retiring state official may not be left to enjoy in peace and privacy the fruits of his public toil. The State Land Commissioner, who was not renominated, finds himself tangled up in a choice story about certain questionable dealings in tidelands with a waterway company at Seattle. This, we submit, is foreign to the legitimate function of the Campaign Lie, and indicates both paucity of the inventive faculty on its part and needless and discreditable malice, which every Campaign Lie that loves its business for its own sake and attends to it strictly ought to be above.

Ere long the Democratic candidates will be presented for the suffrages of the elector and the scrutiny of the censor. We shall live on in the calm and confident assurance that no juicy episode of their respective private lives, past, will be withheld from the observer no embarrassing incident of a racy the merciful judgment of a virtuous press.

UNNATURAL TRADE DIVERSION.

Customs receipts at Portland for the last two months of the fiscal year ending June 30 show a marked decrease compared with those for the preceding fiscal year. The decrease is accounted for by the small arrivals of grain bags, which in former years contributed so largely to receipts for duties at this season of the year. When it is remembered that the country tributary to Portland will this year turn off more wheat, barley and oats than ever before, it may seem strange that importations of grain bags were no heavier. The dimensions of the crop, however, this year had no effect on the direct importation of bags, for local dealers were satisfied to have California merchants handle the bag business, and millions of Calcuttas which should have come direct to Portland were first unloaded at San Francisco and entered at the Custom-House there, and, after the duty was paid, sent north, where they were to be distributed by the Portland middlemen, who, instead of being middlemen, should have been importers.

The uselessness of this roundabout method of transacting business and incidentally throwing prestige to a port less favorably situated is frequently shown by bag ships which have taken outward cargo from Puget Sound or Portland to Calcutta, returned to San Francisco with bags most of which were for Portland, and, after discharging, come north again for outward cargo. More grain bags will be distributed from Portland this year than from all other Pacific Coast ports combined, and yet the direct importations have been smaller than in the two light-crop years which have preceded the present record-breaker. It is not only in grain bags that some Portland dealers have the habit of throwing business to other ports, but in a number of other commodities. Few and far between are the arrivals of Oriental liners at Tacoma and Seattle without good-sized consignments of Portland merchandise on the manifests, and not a little of this same class of merchandise is received at San Francisco and trans-shipped to Portland. All this at a time when we have a regular line of steamers endeavoring to build up a trade that will offer something better than half cargoes for the inward voyages.

Portland, of course, does not suffer as much by comparison with other ports on this "in transit" merchandise as she does on the grain bags, which pay duty and also a profit to the importer at San Francisco; but, so long as the freight rates are the same and our rivals on the north and south do not practice reciprocity on these lines, it is just as well that this city should have full credit for the business which we actually handle. By carrying out this idea of handling our own business we might force some of the San Francisco bag merchants to come up here, where there is a market for grain bags, but even this result would not seriously injure the city. The Custom-House records for the fiscal year ending June 30 show that Portland exported more wheat during the last twelve months than was exported from all other Pacific Coast ports combined. This record will probably be maintained for the fiscal year now beginning, and, with the prestige thus gained, it seems highly unnecessary for Portland to be dependent on ports north or south for importations of grain bags that in the end must be distributed from this city.

In a general way, whatever objection may be filed against this roundabout method of importing grain bags applies with equal force to a large number of other imports which now reach Portland by way of San Francisco or Puget Sound. A little more loyalty to our own transportation lines will cause no financial loss and will reflect credit on the port.

ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL BATTLE.

The great strike in the packing plants of Chicago forbodes mischief that will be widespread and financial disaster that will be felt in thousands of homes as well as in many great business enterprises. Its effects will extend from the great ranges of the far West, where livestock interests center, and from which they radiate, to the kitchens of the laboring men of great cities. It will stop the income from large investments, not only in Chicago, but in Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Omaha and other cities to which the sympathetic nerve of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of America extends, with controlling power. It will reduce to compulsory idleness thousands of men who cannot afford the baleful luxury, and cause them to look forward to the coming Winter with dread and alarm. More than all, it will engender bad blood between capital and labor, between employer and employe, the evil influence of which can only be estimated.

Michael J. Donnelly, president of this great labor union, foresees and admits all of this, but declares that through two months of patient negotiation he has done all in his power to avert the strike, but that he has not been able to secure a satisfactory adjustment of existing differences. J. J. Conway, superintendent of the great Armour interests, in behalf of his company asserts that a strike is not desired by the packing-house interests, but on the contrary is an event to be avoided if possible. It is probable, however, that following the usual course in such cases, presumption has engendered arrogance and concession on either side has not been seriously contemplated.

The minimum wage for unskilled labor is said to constitute the bone of contention in this instance. It is inconceivable, except upon the basis of unreason and stubbornness, that men should not be able to agree upon what is just and fair upon this point. There are no unknown quantities involved in this problem. It is easy to assess the value of unskilled labor. It is regulated largely by the inexorable law of supply and demand, and can only be adjusted upon that basis. It is certain that an adjustment upon any other will be but a temporary truce in an exhausting industrial war.

Shipbuilding returns for the United States as compiled by the Commissioner of Navigation for the fiscal year ending June 30 show a total of 1092 vessels of 349,573 tons gross register, compared with 1215 vessels of 276,502 tons gross register for the preceding twelve months. This decrease is much less than that shown by the foreign shipyards, and is due to the universal depression is shipping all over the world. The supply of tonnage is so much in excess of the demand that both steam and sail vessels of all classes can be purchased second-hand for much less than the cost of construction. If Americans were permitted to adopt the same methods for upbuilding their merchant marine as are followed by the great sea powers of the world, the present stagnation in shipping would afford an admirable opportunity for securing a big fleet of fine ships at less than the cost of building. These ships could be given American register, and, instead of waiting until a merchant marine could be built, we would be ready to take advantage of the revival in freights which is sure to come when freight production catches up with the tonnage supply.

Those devoted to outdoor exercise should find plenty of interest in the coming Presidential campaign, for both President Roosevelt and Judge Parker are excellent examples of the value of sports. The President's athletic pursuits range from riding to jiu-jitsu, while Judge Parker's morning swims have lately acquired National fame. Even the venerable ex-Senator from West Virginia, Henry G. Davis, declares that he "would rather ride a horse than go to the opera any time," adding with a smile that meant he was thinking of another distinguished Democrat, "Yes, I'd rather ride than go fishing even." Riding and swimming have displaced the more meditative pleasures of angling this year, and it is now up to Senator Fairbanks to come out as a boxer or wrestler of the Republican team is to have an equal standing with the Democratic.

Late reports from Russian sources indicate that the great battle of the Manchurian campaign is likely to be fought to the eastward of Liao Yang. The Russian and the Japanese armies, under Keller and Kuroki, respectively, are face to face on opposite banks of the Liauk River, but there is nothing to show when the expected collision will occur, as the Japanese have the gage of battle and Kuroki is sure to wait until Oku is ready to bring strong pressure upon the Russian right flank at Haicheng, which is about forty miles south of Liao Yang. The two Japanese leaders have hitherto worked in perfect harmony, their movements being simultaneous, and it is unlikely that Kuroki will move before Oku has occupied Niu Chwang, from which the Russians are now said to be retreating.

The Russians have at last succeeded in capturing a couple of tramp steamships carrying contraband cargoes, and by the usual prize court methods have condemned and ordered them sold. Tramp steamships are cheap in the present era of low freights and worldwide depression in shipping, and for this reason the credit side of Russia's ledger will not make a very imposing showing in comparison with the figures which show the losses of battleships, torpedo-boats and other craft that have intercepted the fleets of Japan. The British steamship Cheltenham, the best merchant marine prize secured since the war opened, is worth with her cargo, less than $500,000, or about one-tenth the cost of some of the first-class battleships which were destroyed early in the contest.

The Mad Mullah is again displaying his anger, and, as usual, is venting his displeasure on the British. The foreign gentleman with the suggestive name descended on the Somali and celebrated July 4 by killing fifty natives friendly to the British and incidentally running off a thousand head of sheep and fifty head of cattle. The Mad Mullah has been killed so often by cable and mail advices that the public would really miss his periodical appearances on killing expeditions. Considering his vitality, it is not surprising to learn from a London Mail correspondent at Berbera that the British campaign against him in Somaliland has been a failure and that the Mullah is still in full control of the particular region in which he has given the British troops so many hard skirmishes.

A fellow at Pendleton, who prints a paper he calls the East Oregonian, boasts that if he gets a kick from somebody or anybody, it exhilarates him mightily. He says it "keeps him from broodin' on bein' a dog." The degree of estimation in which one holds himself is sure to be or to become the estimation in which he is held by others. The fellow at Pendleton snapped at The Oregonian. He got a kick and he yelps. But he brags that for a minute he forgot he was a dog; and that was reward enough. Then let it go at that. Of course now he is the same cur again.

The accident suffered by Edward J. Gantenbein, of East First street, Monday, while distressing, conveyed at once a lesson and a moral. The first may be stated in a few words: Keep out of the way of fire apparatus, out in response to an alarm. The second consists in being duly thankful that the injuries inflicted by violent impact with the Fire Chief's wagon were not serious.

We notice that a large number of esteemed exchanges continue to make their readers hot by telling them to keep cool. The advice is on a par with that about not worrying. Every one is going to keep as cool as possible, and the person that never worries, while having a good chance of growing fat, is not likely ever to amount to much.

Porfirio Diaz has been re-elected to the Presidency of Mexico, an office that he has held continuously since 1877. The Presidential term in Mexico is the same as in the United States, so it is evident that there is no third-term bogey in the Southern Republic.

The careful automobilist has to share the burden of ordinances provoked by the reckless. But then the careful driver wouldn't exceed the speed limit anyway, so the only one to suffer is the natural-born transgressor.

"I feel twenty years younger," said Candidate for Vice-Presidency Davis yesterday after a horseback ride. A fine old gentleman, indeed, in a remarkable state of preservation.

The Oregon National Guard emerges smiling from a bloodless defeat at American Lake. What's the use fighting when there ain't nothin' in it?

Uselessness of Art.

Atchison Globe.

When we see the picture of Eve in the Bible, we are reminded of what a lot of space is wasted that could be utilized in advertising a union suit.

"WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?"

Statements Anent Oregon's New Experiments With New Methods of Legislation.

The Salem Journal publishes the following editorial article, under the title, "Has Oregon Entered Upon a Revolutionary Period?" through which it displays abundance of capital letters to make it impressive:

While the Republican party has just carried Oregon by 24,000 plurality, and that party has had unbroken power in the Legislature, it is a fact that the only reforms undertaken in this state for five years past are un-Republican and revolutionary.

While the Republicans have enacted minor reforms and improvements, the great changes in the Governmental policies, and the only Constitutional changes have come from Populistic, Socialistic and Prohibition sources.

The initiative and referendum was the pet hobby of the Populist party, forced upon truckling politicians kneeling at the deathbed of Populism.

The only state in the Union to adopt the centerpiece of the Populist crazyquilt, Oregon has already reaped the harvest in two freak measures—local option and direct primaries.

At the first shake of the political dicebox Oregon threw sixes in drawing out of the Pandora's box of direct legislation these two misconceived ill-digested, trouble-producing measures. We escaped woman suffrage by a hair's breadth.

Anyone who can obtain petitioners enough under direct legislation can submit the most surprising and revolutionary propositions.

The initiative and referendum law provides that the bill to be voted on can go out with a campaign argument in favor of it.

The voter reads the stump speech that heads the bill. It seems plausible and he cuts reading the rest and votes for it.

Colorado is the farthest advanced of any Western state in the development of revolutionary policies and crazy experimentalism.

Oregon is fast following in that direction. If Oregon had the woman suffrage law and the eight-hour law we would be fully abreast of Colorado with experiments and innovations and ready for the first movement that came along to throw the commonwealth out of balance and destroy its stability.

If the initiative and referendum is to be tested by the two first measures that have been forced upon the statute books in Oregon, it is pregnant with evil.

Two preachers without pulpits, ministers without families, and persons without permanent residence anywhere, come into the state, on salaries from somewhere, and by a few months' agitation force local option upon Oregon, and Oregon taxpayers and producers will have to pay the bill.

Another local politician, with no reputation but as manager of a handful of Populists in a Senatorial hold-up game, conjures up a direct nomination law that abolishes all political conventions and makes independent candidacies an impossibility. And the people adopt that, too.

That bill is a monstrosity, an absurdity, and will be shot full of holes in the Supreme Court.

The cunningly-worded and plausible stump-speech sent out to each voter with the bill did the business. Not one out of 10 ever read the bill he voted for. He voted on sentiment and emotion.

This direct primary law carries the essence of revolutionary power—abolishing the right of political public assemblage, and centralizing and monopolizing political power on a list of voters who are to publicly declare their slavery to party in advance.

Direct nomination by localities, emanating from the people an additional right to express themselves, but abrogating none of their present rights or privileges, is a sound principle. It can be safely applied to cities.

That custom is established in Iowa, Ohio and some other states. But nowhere but in Oregon has it been solemnly enacted into law that county, district and state conventions shall be abolished.

Those states give the people additional rights, but take away no existing rights and privileges.

The right to peacefully assemble and organize political movements, to make party declarations, and name candidates in harmony with those principles, is a political custom underlying Constitutions and all laws and Governments themselves.

The new direct primary law is unconstitutional because it proposes to saddle the expense of a second election on the people to select one set of officers.

What is it to the taxpayer that half a dozen individuals in some political party are struggling with each other for the possible chance of becoming a mere candidate on one party ticket or the other?

What value received does the taxpayer get for his money out of this direct primary election?

The nominee of the direct primary may be defeated by the other party, or he may decide not to run. But his caprice costs money. Where will the taxpayer ever get any service in return for his taxes?

If the taxpayer belongs to any party that casts less than 25 per cent of the vote, this paying taxes for the primary election will be his only possible participation. He must change quarters, and publicly declare it, or be shut out.

Primary elections to nominate candidates should not be held at public expense, any more than any other party caucus, primary or convention.

Of course, such a revolutionary, abortive, rudimentary, obnoxious miscarriage in the way of proposed legislation will be shot full of holes when it gets before the Supreme Court.

There are some things that cannot be done by popular vote. You cannot hang a man by general election.

The purpose of this article is not to discuss the details of direct legislation, local option or direct nomination. It is to call attention to the departure from orderly legislative reforms and to show the advance in the direction of chaotic, disorderly nonreform.

Oregon should call a halt before sentimentalism has gone to seed. That is what ails Colorado. There political institutions are undermined. There stability has been knocked into a cocked hat. Colorado politicians yielded to the demands of the nostrum-vending demagogy until their streams of statesmanship are spread out thin and shallow, like the ever-widening waters of the River Platte, until they have lost themselves in the shifting sandbars and quicksands on the trackless deserts of irresponsible craving for experimentalism.

Colorado has reached a point where the stability of the commonwealth is gone. Shall Oregon follow her example?

Colorado cannot pull herself together and establish the "status quo" of self-respecting statehood without a bloody revolution. Let Oregon pause before it is too late.

JAPANESE WIN SMALL BATTLES

Russians Dislodged From Several Positions After Hard Fighting.

TOKIO, July 12.—The Japanese Takushan army is moving northwest from Siuyen. It fought a series of small battles with the Russians on July 9 to 10. The army was divided into two columns. When the first column approached Chie Kuan Ching, the Russians started southwest through the valley, but at 5 o'clock in the evening, they took up a position on the heights west of Chou Chin Chiang. The Russians were dislodged at dusk, when the second Japanese column advanced along the road toward Tong Chi repulsing small bodies of the enemy en route. They attacked the advance line of the Russians near Siu Yang Laku. The Russians were reinforced and compelled the Japanese to withdraw. At dawn on July 10, both columns attacked and dislodged the Russians from the heights west of Sinchiaku. The Japanese pursued them and again attacked a strong position held by the Russians at Siutehikou. After a desperate fight, the Japanese occupied the position.

After occupying Kaichou, General Oku's army on Sunday moved northward. The Russians have strong defenses at Tapingshan, Niuzuihan, Wangmatai, Chinghishan and camps near Kuo Chiapao. General Oku probably will attack these positions as soon as his troops are rested. In the fights of July 8 and 9, the Japanese lost about 150 men. The Russian losses are believed to have been heavier than the Japanese.

BRITAIN HOLDS UP THE WORK.

Men to Meet With Americans to Investigate Boundary Waters Not Named.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Owing to the procrastination of Great Britain, the American members of the International Commission to investigate and report on conditions and uses of the waters adjacent to the boundary lines between the United States and Canada have been unable to begin their duties.

The rivers and harbors appropriation act of June 13, 1902, provided for the appointment of three members of such a Commission, and requested the President to extend an invitation to the British Government to appoint a similar number to represent Canada thereon. The matter was duly brought to the attention of Great Britain, which readily consented to enter into the arrangement.

After much correspondence, however, during which that Government was advised that the American Government was still awaiting developments, the American Government, in January last, was informed that William Frederick King, Chief Astronomer of the Department of the Interior, had been designated as one of the Canadian members of the Commission. Since then, no further appointments have been made, and the whole matter, in consequence, is being held in abeyance.

FOR SALE OF THE FRIAR LANDS

Philippine Commission Decides on a Policy.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—The Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department has received a copy of an enactment of the Philippine Commission, providing for the temporary leasing and sale of the lands commonly known as friar lands, for the purchase of which the government of the Philippine Islands recently has contracted. It provides for surveys, and permits the present occupants of any such lands either to buy or lease them, leases to be for three years and at a reasonable rental. Those wishing to purchase may do so at the actual cost to the Government, and will be allowed ten years to pay for the same in equal annual installments with interest on deferred payments at the rate of 4 per cent. All unoccupied lands will be offered for sale by the Government to other parties.

The act further provides that all irrigation works, common to all properties, shall remain under the exclusive control of the government of the islands.

All money derived from the leasing of these lands is to constitute a trust fund for the payment of the principal and interest on the bonds issued by the Philippine Government for the purpose of raising money to pay the purchase price of these friar lands.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY REPORT

Board Appointed by the President Completes Its Labors.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—The Joint Wireless Telegraph Board appointed by the President and composed of Rear-Admiral Evans, Chairman; Rear-Admiral Manney, Chief of Ordnance; Brigadier-General Greeley, Chief Signal Officer; Professor Willis Moore, Chief of the Weather Bureau, and Commander Jayne, completed its labors today and submitted its report to the President. The statement was made that the report was a unanimous one.

In its deliberations the Board considered every possible field of usefulness of a Government wireless telegraph system. One of the principal and most perplexing questions it had to deal with was whether, under certain conditions, commercial messages should be handled. This point, however, the members of the Board refused to talk of, nor would they give out any statement regarding conclusions reached by them on the subject of wireless telegraphy as a whole.

Alaska Cable Soon to Be Opened.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Brigadier-General A. W. Greeley, Chief Signal Officer, is preparing to leave here shortly for Seattle, and Sitka, Alaska, where he will attend the formal opening of the Government cable between those two cities. The last stretch of 130 miles from the Sitka end is now being laid, and it is expected the line will be completed and in working order before long.

American Squadron Reaches Trieste.

TRIESTE, Austria, July 12.—The American battleship squadron arrived here today from Cerfu, and exchanged salutes with the land batteries.

JAPAN WANTS 10,000 BRONCHOS

Texas Firm Is Arranging for Their Early Shipment.

CHICAGO, July 12.—A dispatch to the Tribune from New Orleans, La., says: Creole ponies from the prairies of Southwest Louisiana and bronchos from the plains of Texas may be fighting the battles of Japan within two months. It is learned that a Texas firm has been approached by Minister Takashira, of Japan, with a view to securing 100,000 head of horses of the type now used by the Japanese cavalry.

The Creole ponies and Texas bronchos, with wonderful staying qualities, easily fed and kept, are considered ideal mounts for the Japanese sabermen, and it is understood that negotiations have been opened with the traffic department of the Southern Pacific Railroad for a large amount of stock cars, so that everything may be in readiness to rush the ponies to San Francisco, thence by ship to Corea.

Two British Steamers Stopped.

PERIN, Straits of Bab El Mandeb, July 12.—The British steamer Menles, from Clyde for Shanghai, which arrived here tonight, reports that she and the British steamer Crewe Hall, from Clyde, for Kurrachee, were stopped June 11 in the Red Sea south of Jedda, by the Russian volunteer fleet steamer St. Petersburg, which carried eight guns and a large crew.

Both steamers were boarded, and all their papers and manifests overhauled. The vessels were detained four hours, after which the St. Petersburg steamed off to the northward.

Russia Has Already Secured Loan.

BERLIN, July 12.—All the speculation in the domestic and foreign press regarding the assumed plans of M. Witte, president of the council of Ministers, to negotiate a Russian loan during his present visit to Berlin, has been shown to be incorrect by the announcement today that the loan was arranged prior to M. Witte's departure from St. Petersburg. It appears that representatives of two Berlin banks, who hitherto have acted as Russia's agents, went to St. Petersburg three weeks ago and signed a contract for a loan which the Berlin Neuste Nachrichten says amounts to $62,500,000, bearing 5 per cent interest. How soon the subscription will occur, is not yet known.

Treaty With America Promulgated.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 12.—The corporation treaty between the United States and Russia, negotiated by Ambassador McCormick, was formally promulgated today.

(The corporation treaty provides that American and Russian corporations may sue in the courts of both Russia and the United States. Previous to the promulgation of the treaty American concerns could be sued in Russia, but could not bring suit in that country.)

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Important Interview With Parker.

ESOPUS, July 12.—(Special Correspondence.)—On my arrival here I was assured by many newspaper correspondents that an attempt to interview the Democratic nominee for President would result only in failure. Nevertheless, I determined to persevere in the mission that brought me across the continent, so this morning I was on the springboard when Judge Parker came down for his morning swim. I managed to obtain a most satisfactory interview, which I now send you verbatim, remarking in passing that it is the greatest political scoop of the century.

"Good morning, Judge. I congratulate you on your nomination."

"Thank you."

"Did you send your famous telegram 'collect'?"

"Is it true that you have sworn to punch Hill's head?"

"How much do you expect Senator Davis to contribute to the cause?"

"Have you decided, in the event of your election, whether Belmont or Bryan shall be Secretary of the Treasury?"

"I think that's all I wanted to ask. Good-bye."

"Good-bye."

The packers send their men packing.

If Nature were more of a tactician, she would bring the cloudburst and the forest fire together.

In the matter of announcing his marriage, Senator Clark evidently believes the adage about better late than never.

The girl that can't go to the beach needn't worry. The bathing dresses have none the better of the shirtwaists this year.

President Diaz, of Mexico, has been reelected. Election day for him comes round as regularly as birthdays for other people.

Berlin has a cat that sits—or sets—on eggs and hatches 'em out as well as any hen. Now if Berlin will produce a hen that catches mice the balance will be even once more.

At Tachekiao the Russians captured a Japanese whom they judge from his attire to be a bank clerk. The Russians must be shrewd observers, for there are few Americans who could tell a bank clerk by the clothes he wears.

An auto described by its owner when he's telling a friend how fast he can run it seems quite different when he's explaining to the court that he couldn't possibly do more than eight miles an hour in it.

From one of the "advice" departments in an Eastern paper we learn that a "two-ser" is a Summer girl that is never seen by herself but always with a Summer man dangling around her. Evidently a twoser must be more attractive than a twofer.

According to a recent legal decision a boy is worth twice as much as a girl. A coon dog, according to a young man of New Boston (Mass.), is also worth more than a girl. This dog-loving young man was courting the same girl as his brother, and when the scared brother offered him his prize coon dog to withdraw from the race, why, he withdrew. Apparently the young man is convinced that good coon dogs are scarce, while girls are plentiful.

Russia is not without internal troubles. Visitors from Odessa have introduced mixed bathing at a little village named Kuitchuk, much to the horror of the villagers. A local priest goes so far as to curse the sea daily for permitting itself to be defiled, winding up with a prayer to the waves to arise and overwhelm the "unchristian men and women, whose conduct makes the fishes blush." Here is a phenonomenon that should not escape the attention of Professor Jordan. Fishes that blush are unknown to the Pacific Coast, and a trip to Odessa in a Government vessel would be a pleasant addition to Professor Jordan's already extensive list of similar excursions.

Cats have no terrors for some Oregon robins. A story that recently appeared in The Oregonian told how one of the birds went into battle with a prowling cat as readily as the Japanese meet the Cossacks. The English robin is a much smaller and weaker bird than its Oregon namesake, but it appears to be courageous enough at times, as the following story from the London Globe shows:

The other day, while a gentleman of Portballow, St. Keverne, was walking past a farm in the neighborhood, he was attracted by a robin, which flew about him, flapped its wings in his face some two or three times and appeared greatly excited and distressed. The gentleman's curiosity being aroused, he watched the robin for some time. It flew toward him and then back into the hedge a short distance away, uttering apparently cries of distress all the time. The gentleman walked toward the hedge where the bird seemed to wish him to come, and, creeping up close, he discovered a medium-sized rat, which had got into the robin's nest and was devouring one of the little young birds. At the sight of the gentleman the rat jumped out and was knocked senseless on the road. When the robin saw the rat lying on the road she flew at it and pecked it viciously. The rat was killed and thrown over the hedge into the field, and as the gentleman walked away the robin seemed to chirp him her thanks. There were four young birds in the nest. One was killed, but the other three were free from injury.

WEX. J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Madge—What makes you think that handsome music teacher is mercenary? Marjorie—He charges Dolly's father $2 an hour for making love to her.—Town Topics.

Mrs. Burker—Sarah Miller had the assurance to look me right in the face and tell me I was looking horrid! Mrs. Slyder—You ought to have told her you didn't mind such reflections as that—Boston Transcript.

"Yes," said the young man, "the girl I am engaged to is an angel." "Oh! sure," sneered the scanty-haired man who had been up against the matrimonial game for many years; "that's what they all say." "But she is all right," continued the smitten youth. "Even mother says she is too good for me."—Chicago News.

Arested for Murder of Mine Manager.

DENVER, Colo., July 12.—News was received at a detective agency here today of the arrest of Jesse K. Shields, a member of the Cooks' and Waiters' Union at Silverton, Colo., on the charge of having murdered Arthur Collins, the English manager of the Tomboy mine at Telluride, who was shot from ambush about a year ago. Shields is also accused of killing W. J. Barney, a deputy employed at the Smuggler Union mine, near Telluride, who disappeared three years ago. Shields was taken to THelluride today.

Deny Headquarters Are to Be Moved.

DENVER, Colo., July 12.—Officials of the Western Federation of Miners deny the report of the contemplated removal of the headquarters of the organization from this city to Lead, S. D.