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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 87 deg.; minimum, 58. Precipitation, none.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair and continued warm; northwesterly winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1904.

WAGES AND PRICES. Representative Cowherd's answer to Carroll D. Wright's statistics of wages and prices is in many respects admirable, and occupies to some extent, it will be recalled, the ground covered in these columns at the time Mr. Wright's deductions were given out.

And yet it would be very easy to show that the Cowherd arraignment of the industrial situation is no more logical than Mr. Wright's glorification of Republican rule.

As we have often sought to show in these columns, statistics are capable of almost any twisted construction in the hands of skillful manipulators.

One has only to pick out the years, industries, articles, etc., to suit the purpose in hand, and the thing is done.

It was the structural weakness of Mr. Wright's argument, for example, that he undertook to demonstrate an improvement in prices by making comparisons with 1886, when business was so unusually depressed that products of all sorts had no value in the ordinary meaning of the term.

No trustworthy or serviceable conclusion as to the condition of our working people can be drawn from the abnormal year of 1886. It is a perfectly fair answer which Mr. Cowherd makes, moreover, that wages have risen in unprotected industries, and that upon those industries Mr. Wright largely depends for his optimistic exhibit, and that in other lines, which Mr. Wright carefully ignores, the wage fund has actually declined.

But if Mr. Cowherd thought to make any better showing for his own side of the controversy, he has failed. He says that increased wages are due to unions, and more prevalent in strongly unionized industries. But he goes right on to complain of the bad conditions among railroad men and miners. These two fields of labor are well unionized, whatever Mr. Cowherd may say; and if the tariff has not raised wages where wages are higher than it has certainly not reduced wages where they are lower. His reference to scabber hours of labor is at least unfortunate, for is it not one of the dearest purposes of unionism to secure a constantly lessening number of hours in the day and days in the week?

There are two reasons why these discussions are unprofitable. One is that in the general run of things high wages and high prices go together. It is a foolish task for Mr. Wright to seek, through manipulation of figures, to show that the Republican party has brought about an era of high wages and low prices; and it is equally bootless for Mr. Cowherd to insist that Republican rule means low wages and high prices. The other reason is that every such undertaking is a two-edged sword. Cheap bread doesn't suit the farmer, nor low cost of meat the stock-grower. It is questionable, also, whether a demonstration in high labor cost of manufactures does as much good with workingmen as it does harm with owners and investors.

There is another element in the cost of living which it seems to us these partisan controversialists too much ignore, and that is the effect of cheapened processes of manufacture upon products not foodstuffs. The man who earns from \$100 to \$150 a month spends approximately \$20 a month on his table. The rest goes for things outside the necessities of life. Clothing is much cheaper than it used to be. So is furniture and so are all the odds and ends of housekeeping. Interest on the homebuilder's mortgage is lower, and as for house rent, it rises and falls with the general condition of industry. Rent is high when employment is plenty and low when it is scarce. It is the worker who has the means to pay it; and it comes down when jobs are scarce and rent-paying capacity is impaired.

The average lot of common humanity is immensely easier today than it was a generation ago. Since population has doubled, the piano, for example, is ten times as common. This improvement is not due to the tariff, as Republicans spinbinders would have it, nor yet to the trusts, as their defenders fondly declare, but to the advance of science and its application to industry. It is the chemist who has established the packing industry by teaching it how to use by-products. It is the inventor, not Rockefeller or Havemeyer, who has given us cheap sugar and kerosene. These are the great material forces of

our modern civilization, and it is better for the campaign hustler to leave them unspoiled from his unclean hands.

HOPE VERSUS DESPAIR. The November election will be decided, not by the veteran Gold Democrats who voted for McKinley in 1896, but by men who at that time were from 13 to 21 years of age, whose first vote for President will belong in 1896, 1900 or 1904.

Of the men 35 years and over in 1896 some 2,000,000 have died since that year, and the ranks of the voters have been increased by not fewer than 2,000,000 who have become voters since 1895.

Whoever can get the bulk of these young men will be elected President.

It is an interesting fact, as a little inquiry will show any unprejudiced observer, that young men of Democratic tendencies who cast their first vote in 1896 or 1900 show much less inclination to vote for Parker than do the older men, whose minds are away by the recollections of 1876, 1884 and 1892.

This is partly explainable, of course by reference to the power of old associations, but it may be explained also in many cases by the fact that the younger mind is attracted more by the gospel of hope and endeavor than by the wall of complaint and despair.

The old man for reflection and misgivings, perhaps, but the young man for action and confidence.

What a contrast in this respect is afforded by the attitude of the two great parties. The Republican looks out upon what seems to him on the whole a pretty good sort of world. Times are good, business is thriving, our foreign relations are peaceful and our domestic affairs satisfactory.

The Treasury is full, foreign trade is advancing every year, our Army and Navy have attained their high traditions on land and sea, the irrigation canal goes ahead apace, the dependencies are coping on comfortably, the gold standard is secure, capital is well invested and labor well employed.

We point to the past with pride, we rejoice in the present, we look to the future with resolution and hope.

Crowds of people enter the house of mourning, sackcloth shrouds every form, ashes rest on every brow. Instead of the song of hope, we hear the lamentations of Jeremiah and the grief of Job.

If you look at President Roosevelt one way he is dangerous to the financial interests, and in another way he is a danger to the money power.

The people are being ground into the earth, and on the other hand the country is being delivered over to the rabble. Taxes are too high, the Treasury is plundered, our foreign relations are imperiled, our domestic affairs too much interfered with and too much let alone at the same time, and our few institutions are menaced in a thousand different places.

Everything that is, is to be viewed with alarm; whatever is, is wrong.

While it is true now and always must be true that earthly institutions and mortal men fall something short of the ideal; and while what is satisfactory to some or even to most cannot be satisfactory to all, while there are no great and wise man or great and wise undertaking but will at some point lend itself readily to captious criticism, it is yet very doubtful if this gospel of pessimism can address itself successfully to the 2,000,000 young voters of the land, who will find it hard to reconcile things as they find them with the black picture painted by the Democrats.

Who will suspect there is something wrong when the party of despair can find no spot in all the wide domain of current progress on which to rest in approval, confidence and hope.

A LESSON IN WOODCRAFT. Wesley Pyle, a youth of 19, who was recently shot for a deer in the mountains near Cow Creek, in Southern Oregon, was not skilled in woodcraft.

Hence he became the target for the rifle of a man who, by inference, knew exactly what he was doing. Rev. L. E. Meminger was the marksman in this instance. He was out for deer, and evidently regarded any object that had the temerity to move in the bushes "his meat."

Young Pyle, "ignorant of woodcraft," was not able to get through the bushes without setting them in motion. He had, moreover, just shot his first deer, and the prudence that forbids a trained woodsman to move under such circumstances was ignored. A shot from the minister's rifle brought him to a realizing sense of his ignorance of woodcraft. Fortunately he was not killed, only winged. He now lies in a hospital in this city, his right shoulder shattered, but with a good chance of recovery.

In explanation of his lack of knowledge of woodcraft it is explained that the lad was but recently from Iowa, and knew nothing about mountains. Having shot a deer, he grew excited—it was his "first deer"—and not being aware that he was in dangerous proximity to a man with a gun, who was used to killing deer, knew all about woodsman's ways.

He incautiously moved the bushes through which he passed. What followed has been told. Clearly this untutored boy from a prairie state needed a lesson in woodcraft, and, true to his vocation as a teacher of the ignorant and a monitor to the erring, Rev. S. E. Meminger gave it. A calm and deliberate woodsman who is out merely for recreation and never gets "buck fever" is just the man to give salutary lessons in woodcraft.

"POTENT, POWERFUL AND SINCERE." The most practical phase of foreign missionary effort is represented by the work of the missionary physician and his wife. Dr. J. Hunter Wells, who has sailed again for the Korean field, presented very forcibly the possibilities in this line, in the examples that he cited from his own experience wherein not the comforts of religion, but of medical and surgical science, were applied as a saving grace to the afflicted and the needy.

Ministrations whereby the blind can be made to see, the lame to walk and the sick restored to health represent the most practical phase of missionary effort as those who regard religion as a mere superstition and who are indifferent to whom the forms of religion do not appeal as matters of vital importance. Upon this point those who believe in bending the energies to the solution of the problems of "one life at a time" are as cordial in their good-byes and goodspeeds to these Portland missionaries as are those who regard religion as a mere superstition and who are indifferent to whom the forms of religion do not appeal as matters of vital importance.

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profit in wheat-growing at these figures, and a low valuation of the crop of Oregon, Washington and Idaho this year would be \$30,000,000.

"MORE POWER" FOR ICEBOARDS. It is conducive to the general gaiety that just as the Interstate Commerce Commission has begun rendering decisions uniformly in favor of the railroads, the Democrats should be demanding more power for the iceboards.

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sorrowing and the very poor." In this respect foreign missionary effort does not differ from missionary work in the home field. The work of the Salvation Army is the strongest exemplification of this fact that is now before the English-speaking world.

Energetic, methodical, practical, merciful, these soldiers of peace and good-will labor patiently in the lowly field in home cities that Dr. Wells and other practical representatives of the missionary idea have found so attractive in foreign lands.

The work, wherever it is done and under whatever denominational name, is common to all, and not the less so when it goes hand in hand with religious expression—providing its "most loving expression," as designated by Dr. Wells, takes precedence, first making the present life worth living.

"Potent, powerful and sincere" is the effort made by missionaries who enter the field from the standpoint of pure humanity, literally, at the present time, their lives are in their hands as they go forward in the most "loving expression" of the missionary spirit.

The tragedies of railway travel multiply. It is in vain that the champion of American railway methods cites the small number of casualties from railway accidents as compared with the immense number of passengers carried. The public is confronted again and again with familiar figures showing that on an average only one passenger out of 47,733,329 carried is killed on English railways, while in the United States one passenger out of every 3,963,572 is killed.

In England only one one-third of every 1,540,745 passengers carried is injured; here one in 148,396 passengers is injured. The explanation of the fact presented by these figures is not far to seek. The first impulse is to place the blame upon traffic managers who drive their trains at too great speed, overlook cars and employ inferior men in important branches of the service.

This explanation is not carried far enough, adding: "Upon careful investigation it would probably be discovered that traffic managers do not drive their trains at greater speed than is demanded by their patrons." Probably the correct explanation is found in the fact that the American is content to take the accommodation train, the American is satisfied with nothing less than flying along at fifty or sixty miles an hour. It is the eager desire of the speed to "get there" that regulates the advance of American railways and is, indirectly, responsible for many serious accidents caused by rapid transit.

The steamship Arabia, which was seized by the Russians with a cargo of merchandise from Portland, has been released, and that portion of her cargo which was not contraband will now be delivered at the destination for which it was originally headed.

Eventually it is not improbable that Russia will pay up for the merchandise of the world, and if she is out roaming the seas in search of cargo which might in the course of time reach her enemies, even though it now be floating in neutral bottoms to neutral ports and consigned to neutral merchants, she will find it in such wholesale quantities that it would amount to a sort of trouble for her.

So long as our provisions and other contraband of war can be shipped to Hong Kong there will be plenty of coasting vessels ready to run it up to Japanese ports, especially when they can do the running under the protection of Japanese guns, for practically the entire distance, Russia is powerless to stop this traffic.

Robert Hess and Edward Chester, two noted horse thieves of the Inland Empire, are certainly experts in their line. Their latest exploit deprived the Sheriff of Malheur County, his deputy and the City Marshal of Vale of their horses.

Mounting the steeds of their confiding custodians while the latter were at breakfast, they were on the hills and far away before the men were missed. While the character of the horse thief is not an admirable one, he who does what he sets out to do deftly, expeditiously and successfully commands a degree of admiration even though his talents are misdirected.

This fact made "Gentleman Jack" the hero of a past generation, and for a time elevated his vocation to a high position in the rank of a profession. These bold, bad men of Eastern Oregon are likely to do the same by horsestealing. It behooves the constabulary of the stock counties where these men are operating to look to their laurels.

The timber supply of Oregon and Washington just at present is in jeopardy from two different sources, both of which are making great inroads on the standing timber. The competition of the loggers is so great that they are said to be cutting 500,000 feet per day more than there is a demand for, and the result will be a waste of the surplus.

More distressing because they leave absolutely no recompense for the destruction of the timber are the forest fires. The business of logging requires the employment of many men and the distribution of considerable money for wages, and even if a portion of the logs are lost, some of the output will be sold. With the forest fire the loss is complete, and in many places today are large tracts of smoking stumps and damaged timber which a month ago had a merchantable value aggregating many thousands of dollars.

With Sheriff's posse in pursuit of two separate and distinct bands of horse thieves, Oregon is in a fair way to receive some unpleasant advertising. It is not so very long ago that Oregon horses were so plentiful and cheap that they were not considered worth stealing, but the desperate chances which the thieves now fleeing from the wrath of the law are taking in an effort to round up a small bunch is a high tribute to the present value of the Oregon range horse.

Plans for a water system for Manila have been submitted to congress by the Secretary of War. The supply is to be piped in from the Marquina Valley, a distance of sixteen miles. This is another phase of the outrage perpetrated by the United States in subjugating the poor Philippines. A system of sewerage will next be inflicted upon these people. When abuses of this kind begin there is no telling when or where they will stop.

Japanese soldiers continue to be slaughtered by the thousands at St. Petersburg. It is astounding in view of this terrible decimation of their ranks, that the little brown men continue to advance and that General Kuropatkin and his undisciplined host continue to retreat.

As truly said by Dr. Wells, "the most loving expression of missionary endeavor is the branch that has to do with hygiene—in raising the standard of living and in ministering to the sick, the

RUSSIA'S PIRATICAL ACTS.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The