

The Oregonian

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Portland, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1905. REVISION IS NECESSARY. The Oregonian stands with those who think tariff revision proper, desirable, and even necessary.

Not tariff schedule can be permanent. The reason is that the subject is one of infinite complexity. It changes as conditions of industry change, as markets vary, as relations between labor and capital undergo modification, as public opinion shifts from one point of view to another.

Therefore the work of revision should be undertaken now. There is an extreme theory of protection and an extreme theory of free trade. The one would put up the bars against all foreign commodities, the other would let in all foreign commodities free.

On a question like this there is nothing in an appeal to a party to "stand pat." The tariff is one of those subjects in which there is no fixed principle. It is matter merely of judgment and adjustment, varying with all changing conditions of industry, production, markets and opinion.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE. News of the resignation of M. Combes and the other members of the French Ministry must have been expected by all who have watched the progress of public affairs in the French Republic.

When the contemplation of national affairs, both internal and external, can afford the Russian patriot so little pleasure, it must be unusually cheering for him to see the crop of Winter cereals in this year exceed the average.

THE COTTON MILL STRIKE. The condition of the Fall River cotton mills strikers is distressing in the extreme. The present week is the twenty-sixth of the strike, and the prospects are in the hands of hundreds of idle operatives.

Progress of Texas is astonishing, and enthusiastic Texans say their state will yet be the most populous state of the Union. It is now fifth in population. If the rate of increase continues, it will pass Ohio before 1920.

find that the exports from Galveston are now greater than those from Boston, Baltimore or Philadelphia. New York and New Orleans are the only cities which ship more outward-bound goods than Galveston.

CHAIRMAN BURTON. The chairmanship of the House committee on rivers and harbors in Congress carries vast responsibilities and great influence. No such chairman can discharge his duties acceptably to the whole Nation unless he has most exact knowledge of all important rivers and harbors and combines with that knowledge an unflinching determination to defend the proposed projects with public money, and award all deserving projects with the largest possible appropriations.

Mr. Burton has complete information about the Columbia River and the mighty territory it drains. He has examined in person the Columbia River entrance and the site of the proposed Celilo canal. He understands perfectly the value of each improvement to the commerce and industries of a wide territory.

But it should not wait, and it cannot be required to wait except by direst necessity. It is the duty of the Legislature to act promptly on the bill. It is the duty of the Legislature to act promptly on the bill.

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first visit of the newspaper men to the captured city of the Associated Press correspondents says that no less than 2,000 effective men remained in the fortress, and that there was no grinding scarcity of food, although not much ammunition remained.

AN ORIENT WESTERNER. The sun, it is true, rises in the East, but James Hamilton Lewis, like young Lochinvar, comes out of the West, and James Hamilton Lewis rises with greater eclat than ever the sun may hope for.

It was no mean collection of stars that Jim Ham out-scintillated for one guest, at least, on the occasion of Boston's great Jackson-day banquet, where Massachusetts Democrats of all stripes—except, of course, the penitentiary kind—gathered to eat, drink and dwell together, for soever brief a space, in unity.

Senator Crolson, of Marion County, wants the Legislature to enact a law providing that the attorneys in an action shall have the right to address the jury at least two hours on a side.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. The fashion in photographs is now to have one's teeth showing. Bet a dollar the dentists started this fad.

They tell of an East Side woman who is so energetic that when she's sweeping the carpet she gets so full of dust that her husband has to chew each breath before it will go into his lungs.

"Champagne was always obtainable," says a dispatch from Port Arthur. But who could drink champagne at a mule-meat dinner?

Henry Watercock exclaims, "Strange are the whimsies of fortune." Not a bit stranger than Sir Henri's.

There could be no better way for a young physician to acquire the power of listening to a lot of waffle with an air of sympathetic interest than to work a few weeks as a bartender.

Only once in her life is a woman's weight considered of sufficient importance to get into the papers, and that's when she's born. A man can get his in again at a later stage by turning pugilist.

A man by the name of Badger, who lives in Brimmon, Mo., has named his son for the reason that he would like to be called Brimmon Badger?

In Arkansas a woman who wears a stuffed bird in her hat is liable to a fine of from \$25 to \$50. It is difficult to understand why stuffed birds should be protected more than any other sort of dead bird.

The honest American citizen doesn't stand in slippery places. He falls down.

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STRANGE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD THE AUSTRALIANS

By arrangement with the Chicago Tribune.

THERE are few people on the earth that rank lower in the scale of humanity than the natives—the "black fellows," as the colonists call them—of Australia. The black fellows differ in many respects from all the other races of mankind. They are muscular, about the height of Europeans, and well proportioned.

The Australians also have several interesting weapons, the most effective being the "waddy" and the "boomerang." The "waddy," a heavy club made in various shapes, is the black fellow's invariable companion, and is wielded and hurled by him with astonishing skill, force and velocity.

The Australian is so quarrelsome that he usually has one or more feuds on his hands, and vendettas between families and tribes are frequent. He has no contents that rise to the dignity of wars. The natives have not enough persistence, foresight and capacity for organization to carry on a war.

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LOSS OF LIFE BY FIRE. Total for 1904 in the United States is 6672. Fireproof Magazine. So remote do most of us regard the life-hazard of fire that the following statistical excerpts will come as a surprise.

NOTICED EVERYWHERE. Lancaster (Pa.) Examiner. That great and good type of Western journalism, the Portland Oregonian, comes to hand this morning in the form of an extra number, giving a history of its town and state, the progress and prosperity of last year and the way and wherewith of the coming Lewis and Clark Exposition.

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