

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, April 24, 1905. THE CRISIS IN THE ORIENT. If the Japanese have the daring, the celerity, the superior "trick of the weapon," they will succeed.

It was an outrage upon humanity and upon mankind to force Japan into a position which has obliged her thus to fight for existence. It was done by Germany and France, with the acquiescence of England, some ten years ago.

Japan and China had disagreed as to Korea. War ensued, and Japan was victorious. Japan had taken Port Arthur, and was obtaining concessions in Manchuria.

Japan should give up what she had gained. Russia for her part had the right to insist upon the preservation of the territorial integrity of China.

Germany allowed Russia to have her way, because Germany was unwilling to antagonize Russia. France, even more complaisant, hoped (foolishly) to get Russia's support for her own revenge on Germany.

So the present situation came about. Japan fights for her own existence. Her victory would help the world's civilization. She ought to win.

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Another indication of prosperity. No question that prosperity is general throughout the country. In nearly all lines activity is greater than a year ago.

One sign is the bank clearings, which show extraordinary increase over those of a year ago. Another is the increase of building activity everywhere noted.

Most of the new buildings in all places are of higher class than those formerly erected—architecturally better, supplied with all the conveniences demanded in modern life.

It is no longer easy to find tenants for the old-fashioned and shapely shacks that offend the eye and have no comfort or convenience about them.

It is gratifying therefore to observe that nobody builds that kind any more. A new standard of style in building is one of the good signs of the times.

One of the strongest indications of prosperity throughout the country is the general activity in building, guided by the growth of taste that makes large amounts for past offenses and monstrosities.

LEASING OF SAND ISLAND. The Secretary of War is considering the advisability of acquiring fishermen and others who make use of Sand Island and to pay for the privilege.

Ownership of the island has frequently been questioned, and trap locations thereon or adjacent have been claimed by both Oregon and Washington.

Success to hopgrowers. The meeting of hopgrowers at Salem Tuesday will be an important event to growers and dealers who still have hops to sell.

As to extension of the city limits of Portland, which now inclose forty square miles, the Oregonian hasn't much to say.

Persons who now have hops have become speculators. Last Fall, hops brought as high as 31 cents, and many sold at slightly less than that figure.

Italians in America. The unusual and very heavy influx of Italians into the United States, noted in the immigration returns and through manifest increase of our Italian population.

The work is done with a general breadth of view suited to the importance of the subject. For it is important, since there are now probably more than one million persons of Italian nativity in the United States.

Immigration continues at so rapid a rate that, during the current year, it is probable there will be an addition of not less than 250,000 to the great "Italo colony" in America.

According to the census of 1900 the Italian population of the United States then was 484,207, nearly three-fourths being on our Northern Atlantic seaboard.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. "Whom can I trust?" cries the czar. He can search us.

The photographer who "took" the igrorote chieftains must have forgotten to tell them to look pleasant.

James H. Hyde employs three French clerks. He is said to write most of his letters in French, although he talks to the agents like a Dutch uncle.

The violet must have a hard time keeping modest in view of the price it brings in Eastern cities.

"See Bee" sends the following letter from Ashland: We have people in this section whom you ought to know.

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WALLOWA PRAISES OREGONIAN. Joseph Commercial Club Commends Spurring of Railroads.

Appreciating the Oregonian's effort to set forth the transportation needs of Wallowa County, the Commercial Club, of Joseph, have adopted resolutions commending the Oregonian's work.

Whereas we are carrying on business in one of the most fertile and resourceful sections of Oregon, and

Resolved, by the Joseph Commercial Club, of Joseph, Or., that we do invite the attention of the Oregonian to the fact that in our effort to assist us in our efforts to secure construction of a railroad into the Wallowa Valley;

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QUICK MARRIAGES IN THE UNITED STATES. Easier to Be Wedded in America Than to Be Divorced—Examples of Happy-Go-Lucky Methods in Matrimonial Affairs.

An American woman, in London Telegraph. "IN AMERICA, the 'land of the free,' it is a shade easier to get married than it is to be divorced.

It is to be divorced. Until recently in New York City it was possible to enter into a common-law marriage under extremely simple conditions.

There was no ceremony, civil or religious, no exchange of contract, verbal or written, between the persons entering into the relation.

To inscribe their names on a hotel register as man and wife was enough to make it a legal marriage; or if a man introduced a woman as his wife it came to the same thing.

This extremely free-and-easy form of matrimonial alliance has now been done away with, but the resultant complications are still in the courts.

American girls are impulsive, and the great need pertained to them in their efforts to get easily entangled in unpremeditated matrimonial alliances.

For instance, a man and a young girl were automotously, and not afraid of anything, married by the hotel.

"You are afraid to marry me right now," said the young man.

"Oh, I'm game if you are," retorted the girl, and then they went to the house of the nearest justice of the peace and were married.

Over the border-line, in every State which has frequentable justice of the peace, there is a town known far and wide for the celerity and ease with which couples fleeing from irate parents may be united in wedlock.

It is in the business of the divorce laws in this country that accounts, to a large degree, for the irregularities and peculiarities of many marriages.

While a divorce is being granted in one room a parson or justice may be waiting in another to make one of the parties the mate of another person.

When Captain James McLaughlin, of the Allegheny Bureau of Health, in starting his campaign to cleanse Pittsburgh of lurking germs, ordered that all long beards must be fumigated, as they were excellent propagating grounds for the germs, it was looked upon in the nature of a joke by those who do not wear beards, and as an insult by those who do.

The matter was noticed intended as an insult by those who do not wear beards, and as an insult by those who do.

The inspectors of the health department have so far encountered no objections on the part of the bearded men. In fact, they seem to take kindly to it, as the solution has been highly perfumed. It was especially prepared by the city bacteriologist.

Some Forest Grove girls like to dance. Two of them walked out to Greenville and back on a Friday evening to attend a social function there.

Strolling Player Sent to City Cooler. A wild west show was in progress on the streets Saturday. The performer, while entertaining a rubbering crowd played into the street a Rilly horse, which was escorted to the city bat cave.

Notes of High Rural Society. Rabbitville Corr., Irrigan Irrigator. Dan Sklumpsky has a good job. He has rented his wooden leg to Dan Sneazsky, who is digging post holes with it.

We might mention the fact that St. Buttermilk's oldest child, Miss Ella, the one with red hair and freckles, has accepted the position of dishwasher in the big hotel. She is said to be an expert at (it) but she is expected to see a great improvement in the trade of the Bunco House with Ella's mistress of the dishpan.

If our blacksmith is the man we think he is he will put a new pair of hinges on old man Scatterwood's front gate, for he has been the chief instrument in assisting that cross-eyed Scatterwood girl in wearing the old ones out.

Play Ball. James Montague, in New York Journal. Shut up the shop! Forget your cage! Let foolish business wait! The shouting crowd already throngs in through the grandstand gate.

Already on the white-lined field the men of might and fame are likely loosening their limbs before the glorious game.

PROPHECY AS TO TOGO'S PLAN. Naval experts who predict that Admiral Togo will fight his great sea battle in Formosa Strait, whither the heavy Russian vains are set, serve only to nourish the vain hopes of the czarism.

The igrorote chiefs donned new loin-cloths for Easter.

The suspicion grows that Rojstevsky employs a press agent.

It-Bits says that some individual with oceans of time on his hands has conceived the idea of hunting through the works of English novelists for the purpose of finding all the adjectives used to qualify the word "kiss."

Two California kids, aged 5 and 6 respectively, pounded two younger children with bricks until the poundees are not expected to live.

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WHITTIFERS IN DANVERS. One day a stranger rolled into the old Berry tavern at Danvers. A number of men were seated in the office, and were asked by the newcomer: "Will you kindly come where I may find the Whittier house?"

A young business man, not a native of the town, to be sure, but who had lived in it a number of years and belonged to New England, spoke up, saying: "You mean Joe Whittier, the contractor? He lives at Danversport."

"No, no; I refer to John G. Whittier," he replied, "and he lives in this town in the only other Whittier in this town is Clarence Whittier, janitor of the town house. He lives on Essex street."

The stranger became both amused and impatient and said: "I am talking about John G. Whittier, the poet; he's dead, you know. I want to find out where his home was."

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