

The Oregonian

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their feet before the Japanese put their torpedo-boats into action. Naval experts, representing all countries, are making every effort to get precise knowledge as to the battle of the Sea of Japan. They study with closest attention all details of information they can obtain—the movements of vessels at different stages of the fight, guns, projectiles and explosives, range and effect of shot, the state of the sea at the time of the battle, formation and maintenance of the battle line, and all else they can gather. But it will take a great while to get everything that is wanted, for the war is not ended and Japan finds it necessary to guard the secrets of her work against too much present inquisition.

SCHOOL CENSUS, TRUE GUIDE. During many years the steady proportion of children of school age in Portland to total population has been about 1 to 4.25. Last Spring, by the annual census, there were 25,940 children of school age in Portland. A population not exceeding 2500, including 600 children of school age, was added to the city by the vote of last June. This makes a school population of 26,540. Multiply by the proportion—4.25—and you get a total of 112,765, which is just about the present population of Portland.

After hearing all debate on the subject, The Oregonian is of the opinion that the return of the closest possible census would not vary 1000 from this, either way. Then the debate first began. The Oregonian thought the population was surely 115,000, and might run up to 120,000. Close examination leads now to the conclusion above stated. But if any of our enthusiastic fellow-citizens can find the names and residences of 15,000 to 20,000 more, The Oregonian will be glad to acknowledge the discovery. Only a gain in five years, from 90,428 to 112,765 is no small gain. The only fear The Oregonian has is that not quite 112,765 will be found. We may add that a school census may be depended on for fullness, because of the inducement to make it full. Distribution of the state school fund depends on it.

REORGANIZE, NAVY, ORGANIZE. Chief Gritzmacher states that he will reorganize the detective force. Strictly speaking "reorganize" is not the word that should be used. Its use is liable to give out the impression that there already exists some kind of an organization to the force, when, as a matter of fact, it utterly lacks all semblance of organization. The proposed reforms as outlined for the detective service by the new chief will be welcomed by the citizens, who for a number of years have been footing the bills without experiencing the satisfaction of knowing where their money was getting anything for their money. It is, of course, interesting and picturesque to have our detectives on terms of great intimacy and friendship with Scotch Alec, the Palo Alto Kid, the Plunger, and other gentlemen of leisure of a similar stripe, but is it not possible that we could employ men to entertain these "tourists" for less money?

There is another point to be considered. The system proposed by Chief Gritzmacher cannot fail to curtail the junketing tours of the detectives who get lost at the old home "way down East," when they are sent after prisoners. Take the case of Detective Hartman for instance. The police department were in ignorance of his movements for many days after he disappeared from a train while en route to Chicago. His wife had the advantage, however, of knowing the force was working over his protracted absence, she was at all times in close touch with his movements. The discipline under which Hartman was working was never sufficiently rigid to demand that a detective give an account of his movements or his intentions to anyone, least of all to the officers responsible to the people for his acts. Nor does it appear that Hartman has been investigated into Hartman's doings. Under the proposed organization system of Chief Gritzmacher it is probable that the detectives will be forced to work every day except when they are on vacation leave, granted by the head of the department, instead of taken in response to the individual desire of the detective, without permission from anyone.

There is some good in the detective force, but there is also some that is rotten. In organizing the force, the care should be exercised in the rejection of material that is unfit. The general demoralization of the detective force has been materially aided by a number of fairly good men, following the example set by one or two swagging "yegg men," who should have been dropped from the city payroll years ago.

WISCONSIN'S RAILWAY LEGISLATION. The new railway commission law enacted by the state of Wisconsin creates a board of three members, appointed by the Governor, with salary for each of \$5000 a year, and traveling expenses. The bill leaves to the railroads the power to make such rates as they please, under a rule of uniform classification; but the commission will have power to review challenged rates and to make others, subject to review by the courts. All new rates must be filed with the commission, and no advance in rates can be made till the commission has had ten days to pass on them.

The bill prohibits all discrimination between shippers and provides that there shall be only one classification of freight in the state; that this shall be uniform on all railroads and the same for state as for interstate traffic. Any person may make complaint as to any rate and if the company does not change it within ten days of the notice the commission may order a hearing. If that body finds the rate unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory it shall fix a rate which will go into effect within twenty days. If either party is dissatisfied he may prevent the rate from going into effect pending a determination of its justice by a court.

our markets and protect an industry not in need of protection. A reduction of this duty would not only reduce the price of iron and steel, but would permit foreign steel to be imported, and would make this commodity a contributor to the National Treasury where it pays virtually nothing.

In order to help out the protected barons who cry economy in the guise of stand-patters, appropriations for rivers and harbors were cut down at the last session of Congress. The Columbia River received so little money that the bar dredge has been laid up, the jetty is pinched for funds, the channel to the sea cannot be permanently improved and the boat canal at Celilo has hardly enough money in sight to scratch the line of survey. And other rivers and harbors in Oregon and Washington felt the pruning knife of Chairman Burton, of the House Committee on rivers and harbors likewise.

And were other appropriations cut down? Nay, the committees put through bills, carrying about as much money as usual. The deficit that makes the tariff favorites cry economy, that blocks the way to tariff reform, that would reduce the profits of the protected barons and increase the government's tariff revenue.

No, "Constant Reader," the word that closed gambling at the Irvington racetrack was not the word that silenced the racers and fan-fan players with a battering ram a few months ago. This last word was spoken by Judge Fraser and it was directed to the men in the paddock and stables, as well as those in the grandstand. The limitations of nearly all reformers are reached, if they are given time to get to the end of their tether. It might also be mentioned that this racetrack gambling was not closed by a recently elected official, who threatened to close up the Milwaukee gambling joint. "If there was any law by which they could be reached," the evil was squelched by a sinful man, who bets on horse races, prizefights and elections and has even been known to "tackle the cards and play for 'em." And yet, if results could be anything, as a bona fide reformer, he has the grandstand artists beaten to a standstill.

The Tacoma Ledger, under a Portland date line, printed a statement alleged to have been made by a Portland agent of foreign shippers, to the effect that there will be 250 cargoes of wheat to go foreign this season from Portland and Puget Sound, after making allowance for "a large quantity of grain to go to California, as well as for wheat shipments of flour to the Orient." These are the same old tactics followed year after year by interested persons who are desirous of boosting the freight rates for ships. The amount of wheat available for shipment, of course, never comes within 10,000,000 bushels of their wild predictions, but the discrepancy never bothers them, and they show up smiling year after year with the same old misrepresentation. Fortunately, the ship brokers do not approve such methods, and the evil effect of the reports is accordingly nullified.

And still trouble accumulates for "Tama Jim," the theoretical farmer, who spends the appropriation for the Agricultural Department. He has just learned that Dr. Salmon, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, was a silent partner of a printing label, which was printed by the department in connection with the Agricultural Department, is added tribute to the stupidity and incompetency of the chief under whom this wholesale and miscellaneous grafting has been conducted. Nothing that has yet been disclosed tends to incriminate the secretary himself, but it does prove that he is entirely not up to the mark in his capacity to handle an important branch of the government service.

A blunder in punctuation may upset a whole statement. Cyrus H. Walker, of Linn County, writing about his ascent of Gale's Peak, northwest of Forest Grove, in 1857, in company with Dr. S. H. Marsh and his own younger brother, Marcus Whitman, is made to say a substitution of a semi-colon for a comma, that Marcus Whitman, whom the reader of the article would suppose the pioneer missionary, was of the party. Marcus Whitman, the pioneer missionary, had in fact perished at the hands of the Indians nearly ten years earlier. Such a difference will disparagement of punctuation marks make.

In New Orleans yellow fever was allowed to get a start before methods of repression were brought into use. Yellow fever patients concealed themselves, and persons who had been exposed to the miasmatic air of the infection had scattered from the original center, before the authorities waked up to action. The Dallas (Texas) News says: "New Orleans can hardly complain of the harshness exercised by other communities against her when she counts up the number of yellow fever victims she had before the world was advised that the disease existed in that city."

Should Japan establish a Monroe Doctrine for herself in the sea area of Eastern Asia, and Germany and Russia a Monroe Doctrine for themselves in the Baltic, the United States doubtless will defend her Monroe Doctrine with even more assurance than she has hitherto done. Great Britain probably will invent one, for herself, pretty soon. She in fact gave us ours.

Oregon has always been friendly toward Mr. Harriman's railroads and will continue so if he will make needed extensions and permit others to do the same. Otherwise he may find Oregon growing hostile and using the powers of public sentiment and of the Legislature to his detriment.

Benjamin Franklin was born in Milk Street, Boston, January 17, 1706. The Boston Transcript is now published on the site of the house where he was born. His bicentennial birthday is to have adequate commemoration at Boston and also at Philadelphia.

One thing has long been a custom, yet never should have been tolerated and ought to be stopped now, namely: Payment of money out of the State Treasury to promote gambling at the State Fair.

France might advise Russia that payment of a \$1,000,000,000 war indemnity has been made once before.

What does Russia think of the open door in China now?

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OREGON OZONE.

Grass Valley Cuttings.

When I got to worrying over the yellow peril, I am comforted by the reflection that Oregon is a long shot from New Orleans.

If Christ Came to Portland. Thinker—I notice that Rev. Charles M. Sheldon refused to preach at the Exposition yesterday because the Trail has been opened on Sunday; and yet this same preacher once wrote a highly lucrative novel entitled: "In His Steps; or What Would Jesus Do?" Now what do you think of that?

Hiram Hayfield's Views. Dear Mister Editor, I have bin to the Cow Creek school and turned how to spell. It took me 3 or 4 weeks, but I mastered the art from B to Baker. Sum folks didn't like my early orthography, and I want to plug some of it myself; but I arise in meeting to state that this here British language in common use in our grade and glorious republic is a thing to make the angels jump up and crack their heels together 3 times and laff till the tithers run down their seraphic faces.

I have bin 2 busy trying 3 crops of alfalfa a year and trying to keep red up the exposure of the system, the market reports on "Pats and Pansies" and the prospects for the hop crop, 2 eat 3 meals a day out of the United States dictionary and sleep on the rest of the book at night. But one day my daughter Jane Marlar says to me, "Paw, if you don't go over to the Cow Creek schoolhouse and turn how to spell, the public will think you ain't got education enough to write for the papers." The publisher of the paper says in the words of a celebrated captain of industry and gentleman bandit, "No use 3 cuss," says Jane Marlar; "any old can cuss, but it takes a man 3 spell reformation."

That blow almost killed father, and Hiram Hayfield, the undersigned, put on his Sunday suit and hiked off to the schoolhouse. School wasn't in session, as the teacher was engaged in the ancient and onery expedition of getting roots for my brother Silas at his month and his grub. But I clumb in through a winder and played solitaire with the old blue-backed spelling book for 3 hull weeks, and last Saturday night I rote out a diploma for myself, to wit:

"Know all men by this present, that Hiram Hayfield, the undersigned, is a Past Master of the gentle art of orthography, so help me Heaven, Webster. (Signed) Hiram Hayfield, P. M."

Jane Marlar laffed when she saw my diploma, and said I would be tuck for the postmaster and I ought 2 make it A. M.; but I told her that I was going to live the simple life from now on, in a land where it was always afternoon, as the poet Tennyson sung, and I wood haff 2 stick 2 the P. M. Jane Marlar is a good girl, but she sure got the Pacific University last year and got sum hifalutin notions.

Yours for the higher education, Hiram Hayfield, P. M. P. S.—Korrect orthography lurnt while you weigh. Hiram Hayfield, Past Master, Grass Valley, Or.

A Lyric of Loving. World, you are very wonderful to me: The stars are in his places, The sun is in his ring, The planets walk their pace, The earth in steady swing Sweep on, keeps on; all things in order be. Life, you are very beautiful to me: The light of friendly faces, The hills of loving, the meadows green, The hush of mystic spaces, The babel of the throng Thrill me, fill me, and all things beautiful be. Love, you are very countful to me: The gifts of my endowment, In faith and in love, one, The joy of her avowment, Outwath the stars and sun Above: I love, and all things lovely be. ROBERT'S LOVE.

Mitchell's Notoriety. Pendleton Tribune. The importance of the office of United States Senator is emphasized by the great publicity given by the space given in one may judge by the space given in the weekly in metropolitan daily and country weeklies in every part of the country. There is scarcely a man, woman or child in the Union that does not know that a United States Senator from Oregon has received a jail sentence and a fine of \$200, and very few there are who do not know that he was Mitchell from Oregon, who had served nearly a quarter of a century in the Senate. Various lessons will be pointed from the incident. The President will be credited with fearless investigation, no matter who the sufferer may be. The crime will be magnified and then forgotten, but conviction and penalty will be considered as the measure of his guilt for many years. Whether his long period in the Senate will in the end overshadow the brief period of his fall is the question. The fact remains that every citizen in the country was interested in the case because of the great importance of the position rather than of the man involved. Both the good and evil deeds of Mitchell will be forgotten long before the fact that a United States Senator was convicted of crime and sent to jail.

NEW ORLEANS TESTS MOSQUITO THEORY.

Yellow Fever Epidemic Similar to That of 1878, When No Flight Was Made on the Insect.

Richard Weightman, in Chicago Tribune. WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—The so-called "mosquito theory" is now on trial. According to the theory, presented by the report of Professor Joseph Jones on the epidemic of 1878, it is the deaths for July of that year put at 50. Here, then, we have almost an exact recurrence, in both instances the disease making its appearance in May. In both there was a period of 49 days or so without any further demonstration. In both the fever reappeared in July in epidemic form with virtually identical results. From this basis, therefore, the country can watch with understanding the report of Professor Jones on the epidemic of 1878, it is not to this point, and the next two or three months will furnish material for intelligent comparison of the two epidemics. The 1878 figures of deaths for the remaining months of that year: August, 574; September, 184; October, 117; November, 56; December, 12. Making altogether, 1026. In the two deaths in May and the 50 in July, a grand total of 496, more than half of whom were children under 5 years of age.

No Mosquito Fight in 1878. At that time there was no fight against mosquitoes. Of course almost everybody slept under nets, winter as well as summer, but there was no attempt to get rid of the insects. They were left to their own devices, and no doubt contributed greatly to the dreadful result above given in figures. This year, as we are told in the dispatches from New Orleans, the fight on the insect is systematic and comprehensive. So, by comparing the death rolls of the 1878 month with those of 1905, we can form a fair estimate, not of the mosquito theory, perhaps, but of man's ability to destroy the pests in the city of New Orleans. It is believed this will be a reasonable and just comparison, and it is safe to assume that there is as much material for yellow fever in the town as there was 27 years ago.

The epidemic of 1878 had been preceded by formidable visitations in 1867 and 1874, and while many escaped they both (among the number) only to contract the disease a second time. It can be no doubt that the two preceding epidemics had greatly reduced the number of nonimmunes and correspondingly increased the number of immunes. It seems fair, therefore, to conclude that the conditions at this moment differ in no important respect from those of 1878 on August 1.

Present Test Will Decide Much. The next four months will tell the tale. Of course the difficulties in the way of the anti-mosquito crusade are enormous. Not only are there thousands upon thousands of overground drains to be looked after, but there are gutters and surface drainage canals in which, if not cleaned out, the water is constantly renewed by violent tropical rainfalls. When New Orleans shall have completed her drainage and water works system so that the city can be destroyed and the gutters, etc., be kept dry, the task will be infinitely easier. For the present, however, it is literally a battle against the elements. My knowledge of the men who have undertaken it I should surrender to misgiving. It seems, however, I shall not be astonished to see excellent results of the splendid fight New Orleans is making against her ancient enemy.

Parallels Between Epidemics. This fact was ascertained by the report of the health officer, who in August, 1878, in 1878, first recognized in May, the 25th of the month. Nobody ever knew how many cases there were, for then, as now, we were in the habit of reporting to the health officer, or even State Board. They could be sure, therefore, only as regarded deaths, and of these there were two.

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PORTLAND'S STEADY GROWTH.

Tacoma Ledger. A census of Portland has been taken by the Assessor's staff with the result that an actual count discloses a population of about 111,000, as compared with 90,428 in 1900. This is a substantial increase of about 22 per cent in five years. There has been nothing in the nature of a "boom" at Portland, but the community has enjoyed a steady growth of a permanent character. Portland is a city of wealth and established reputation, and is a city of some of the stability, solidity and far-reaching influence. Five years ago Portland was, as it had been for decades, the largest city in the Pacific Northwest. It may not hold that pre-eminence again, but there is a distinction between the adjective "big" and the adjective "great." The Northwest is a great enterprise and influence, and metropolitan in appearance.

Portland is the only city in the Pacific Northwest that could or would have undertaken such a great enterprise as the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the expedition of Lewis and Clark. That undertaking was a colossal one, but it was courageously undertaken and successfully accomplished. Portland is a city that is not only big, but is big enough to bear the brunt of an enterprise which was certain to benefit other cities and the whole Northwest quite as much as Portland. The Northwest was a great enterprise and influence, and metropolitan in appearance.

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