

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair, with frost in early morning; warmer during afternoon; westerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 60 deg.; minimum temperature, 49 deg.; precipitation, .02 inch.

PRISON ORGANIZATION.

Pacific Coast penitentiaries are getting a shaking-up all round. In California it is charged that convict labor at San Quentin has been employed for some time past in the manufacture of elaborate furniture for the superintendent, his family and his friends, including the Governor of the state; and while this charge has not been proved, it has served to defeat the re-nomination of Governor Gage, thereby making something like a revolution in the Republican party.

These scandals are spring from a common source—the demoralization of our prison administration through its connection with politics. Everywhere we have made the appointment of prison officials a matter of politics. Superintendents are chosen not upon any theory of special fitness nor for experience in dealing with the criminal class, but wholly through political or personal favor; and subordinates are named not by expert authority and with reference to the work to be done, but by politicians and as a reward for political service.

It was a singular fact that the only denunciation that Kossuth received during his visit to the United States he obtained from Wendell Phillips, the great anti-slavery orator, then in his physical and mental prime. Phillips and Kossuth were cut from the same cloth. Kossuth would subordinate everything to the cause of liberty for Hungary, and Phillips would subordinate everything to freedom for the negro.

Kossuth and Phillips illustrated the limitations of the oratorical temperament as distinguished from the mental construction of a statesman. They were poets, enthusiasts, eloquent dreamers, not organizers or constructive statesmen, because such men never know that compromise spells statesmanship sooner or later in all great struggles for the attainment of political ends.

Man's inhumanity to dogs is suggested by the walls of canine woe that go up from the city pound these days. Of course, the poundmaster must do his duty and impound all unlicensed dogs. The inhumanity is in the owners of dogs who are unable or unwilling to pay the license exacted by the city and permit these affectionate but luckless animals to fall into the hands of the dogcatchers.

THE LIMITATIONS OF KOSSUTH. Today the united Magyar societies of Cleveland will unveil a bronze statue of Louis Kossuth, that date approximately the 100th anniversary of the Hungarian patriot's birth and the fifty-first of his visit to the United States.

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SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS. He Paraphrases the "Copy." Olympia Recorder. Congressman Cushman is receiving a great deal of free advertising in the columns of the Northwest Oregonian. Up to present advertising is abundantly able to stand the infliction.

Not the Same Old Smile. Poetello Tribune. The old-time Democratic smile is sadly wanting in the campaign. There is an utter lack of gladness among the leaders. Their expression is most lugubrious, for, like Belshazzar of old, they read the handwriting on the wall.

People Will Indorse the Exposition. Albany Democrat. One of the biggest things the next state legislature will have to settle will be that of an appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The people of Oregon generally in a patriotic spirit indorse the proposed exposition, but how large an appropriation they will indorse is a matter yet to be learned.

Chance for Good Example. Walla Walla Statesman. Now that it has been decided that colored troops of the Ninth Cavalry with a colored captain will soon be located at Fort Walla Walla, some of our good Republican friends who are wont to deplore the drawing of the color line by the Southern whites, may practice what they preach by receiving the colored soldiers on terms of social equality.

Roosevelt Is a Soldier. Astorian. If Theodore Roosevelt be anything he is a soldier. All these days he has been continuing a round of such-making in addition to the arduous labors of his exalted office. The fact that the President has allowed no one to know of his pain and suffering until now, called him a hero in the eyes of the people.

At Underwood's Trial. Tacoma Ledger. It is a lamentable fact that the man guilty, or supposed to be guilty, of a hideous crime attracts attention from others than the police. There is a morbid desire to see him, and after a time he is almost a sight to be seen.

Purpose in Education. Eugene Guard. If today the Willamette University, the Pacific University or the State University could be transplanted to Portland and established upon an independent basis, it would within a year multiply its student body and its general resources and gain for itself the assurance of a large and permanent endowment.

FIVE-MINUTE BOOK TALKS. No. 1.—DR. JOHNSON'S RAMBLER. The literary giant of the 18th century— that is, of the English-speaking countries— would seem not to have been the case in his own time and a few years later, I take from my shelves three volumes dated 1784, the 12th edition, as the title-page informs me, of "The Rambler," essays published first in serial form and between the dates March 20, 1750, and March 14, 1752. They consist of 208 papers of meaty matter for persons who take a thoughtful view of life.

NOTE AND COMMENT. Autumn of the Heart. Across the wood-grown western hills The serried clouds advance; And soon on Autumn's crumpled leaves The first few raindrops dance.

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