

A Thinking People

Max O'Brien in the Examiner. A few days ago I walked into the office of Grand Central Station, on Forty-second street, and asked for a ticket and sleeping berth for Toronto.

"Well, how are you?" said the clerk behind the counter. "Very well," I answered. "Last time you came here," he added, "I gave you a ticket for Oberlin, Ohio."

"Well, I guess," said I, knowing the American language, "that was five years ago."

"I guess that's so," he said. He guessed right. You go into an American hotel and ask if Mr. John Smith is in. "Pet!" says the clerk to the hall boy, "go and see if 878 is in."

I have seen boys stand outside the dining-room of American hotels and receive in rapid succession as many as five hundred hats, all derbys, all alike, no name inside, no possible way so far as I could see to distinguish one from the other.

The conductor of an American train may have over five hundred passengers under his charge. The have all come in at different stations, they are all going to different stations. As they come in he collects their tickets. That's settled; he remembers the destination of every one of them.

A European interviewer calls on you with a stenographer, if he is not one himself, to take down every word that is uttered either in question or in answer. The American interviewer calls on you, has a chat with you, seldom takes even as much as a note. The next day you see the conversation in print. It is correct.

But I have seen better than all that, I have seen American ladies leave home to pay calls at No. 418 West 125th st., No. 329 East 136th st., No. 293 West 126th st., and half a dozen more. They remembered them all.

New Things

There is nothing more interesting than the progress made in inventions. The following are new. Mayor Johnson of Denver, Col., is the inventor of a collar button which an eastern authority says is worth \$10,000.

A resident of New Zealand has patented a liquid for branding cattle which can be applied with a brush. A weeder on wheels is a new departure which has been recently patented, in the way of farming implements. The patent was awarded to the Standard Harrow Co., of Utica, N. Y.

Alfred L. Overcashier, a cotyled barber of Pittsburg, Pa., has been granted a patent on an adjustable stand for bootblacks, the footrests of which are clamped to the distance from the chair.

An old railroad man, M. E. Peterson of Rockland, Mass., has patented an automatic sand box for trolley cars, which supplies the sand to the track just as it is needed.

A typewriter machine which writes in cipher and translates automatically is the invention of Frank Sedgwick of Chicago, Ill., and the device is being tested by government officials.

W. S. Eaton of Nashua, N. H., was recently granted a patent on a loom improvement which he immediately transferred to the Draper Company of Portland, Maine, and Hopedale, Mass., for a handsome consideration.

James Hall, the negro blacksmith of Waycross, Ga., who last year invented a traveling corn mill that would grind a bushel of meal while the farmer was driving a mile along the road, has also invented a cotton-stalk puller.

A tobacco-stemming machine, the invention of A. J. Bush of Kaufman, Texas, was exhibited recently at Houston. It will separate the stems from the leaf as fast as a man can feed it, and one of them will do the work of eight strippers.

V. T. Bray, a locomotive engineer of El Dorado, Kan., is the inventor of a spring leg for the seat of the engineer in the locomotive cab which relieves the body of all shock or jar resulting from the use of a flexible shaft.

By the use of a flexible shaft a Berlin firm is making a motor which can be placed in any small boat without any alteration or fitting whatever. The shaft between the engine and propeller passed through a steel tube which is curved over the stern of the craft.

Boiled and salted nets have been experimented with in France for the purpose of stilling troubled water, and they have been found to be superior to oil. Baron d'Allessandro has perfected the idea so that it is applicable for use on shipboard as well as entrance to harbors.

Dr. L. E. Niles and L. L. Wooley of Springfield, Ohio, announce that they have discovered an entirely new gas with which they can make daylight. They say that a couple of dozens of lights of their building would light the whole of New York, and that 300,000 candlepower would not cost more than fifteen cents.

Benjamin L. Miller, a marine engineer and draughtsman of Seattle has designed what he calls a beach dredger and which he will send to Cape Nome. With this machine he says he can gather the golden sands from points from 500 feet to a quarter of a mile and bring it on shore.

A cheap substitute for wood has been made by Oliver Johnston of Brooklyn who has been at work for many years on this matter. The base of the new material is straw, and it can be nailed or screwed or treated in the same manner as wood, and, as it is more solid in its structure, it is said to be much more durable.

Thomas Edison says that he is at work on a method of improving the telephone so as to enable it to be worked under water and at very long distances. He uses a transmitter which is 1000 times more powerful than that found on the ordinary telephone and very first on the Haytian cable in a few weeks.

See French the Jeweler if you are in need of a first class clock. We have bargains.

A Word to Reformers.

Editor Democrat:—As some of our populist and Prohibition friends are opposed to a union of reform forces in the coming campaign, permit me, through your paper, to offer them a few words of friendly advice. That both of these parties have done much in the way of educating the people, is admitted by all who have watched the trend of political movements. But the time has come when partyism should give place to patriotism. Life is too short, and time is too valuable to be spent banding parties.

An organized party is necessary only when vital principles are endangered. Populists, Prohibitionists and Democrats are all seeking to check political corruption and to fully establish democratic simplicity. This can never be done until the people have a chance to approve or reject the work of legislators. An intelligent public is much safer than a truckling official. We have reached a crisis in the affairs of government that demands prompt and decisive action. The Republican party is fully committed to the English system of finance and expansion by force of arms. It is practically a party that is doing more for monarchy than all of the old empires combined.

It is now also in full sympathy with the money trust, the whiskey trust and all other trusts. Now if our Populist and Prohibition friends desire to make short work of reform, let them unite with the real democracy of Oregon and place in the field such men, and only such, as will command the respect and confidence of all good citizens.

Every vote for a division of reform forces is simply a vote to perpetuate the most un-American administration this government has ever had. We can be represented in congress by statesmen next term if we will only act wisely. I am satisfied that a majority of our people want to do right. Now my Populist and prohibition friends let us be sensible, and unite on one good man for each office. We have no right to jeopardize the welfare of our children by acting otherwise.

STEPHEN JEWELL Grants Pass, Ore. Deserv'ing nothing.

Rev. John A. B. Wilson, of San Francisco, in a funeral sermon over the remains of Amy Murphy, the victim of a wine merchant, advocated the killing all men who betray girls. He said: Friends: Every time I am called to a funeral of this sort, I thank God for my Southern birth; for in my country we all men for the offenses, that lie back of this tragedy. And I want to see the day when every State in the Union will make it justifiable homicide for the brother or father of a wronged girl to kill the fellow whose infamous footsteps crossed the threshold of her home.

This is strong language, but the time has come for strong language. In the United States one hundred and seventy girls are lead astray every day through the infamy of men. Doesn't it call for all law abiding people to rise in their might for the protection of their homes. There is a field right in Albany, a city that has its share of men watching for an opportunity to take advantage of those whom they should protect as gentlemen. They hide themselves under the infamous lie that it is no more their fault than their victim's. Capital punishment is none too severe for the despoiler of the home. But let the law make provision for it and not leave it to Judge Lynch of the South.

The war department is preparing a statement to Congress showing what sums have been collected and expended in the various islands. It is reported that the accounts are in a greatly tangled condition and that it will be impossible to account for a large of the expenditures. Rumors of corruption are plentiful, and it is certain that the Department would never make public these accounts unless compelled to do so by Congress.

American all respect Queen Victoria, but it must be said that she was most disingenuous in referring to her casual aggression against the Boers as a resistance to the invasion of her South African colonies.

A missionary in Utah says that Mormons derive a large part of their wealth from their plural wives. Each of these has to work and all her earnings go to the husband. Polygamy seems to have a distinct business favor.

A Live Chase.

About 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon a boy in reform school clothes was seen rushing through the city along the banks of the Willamette followed afterwards by a couple of men. He reached the bridge and fled across it, but the men were close behind in a lively rig and succeeded in capturing him at the other end of the bridge. The boy was Charles Roper, of Ashland. He had escaped from the reform school on Thursday. That night F. W. Pearson and Watson Townsend, in the morning they were waiting at the depot for the overland when young Roper who had been lying on the platform suddenly slipped into the adjoining boxcar. Though the bridge was guarded the little fellow in some way got across the wagon bridge into Linn county. The men followed in a lively rig, hunting along the way, getting him here a long and muddy chase. He was led in the city jail over night and on home this morning.

SATURDAY NIGHT THOUGHTS.

Another effort, by Buller to go to the relief of Ladysmith keeps the South African war in that direction, and the flower of the English young men continue to be sacrificed in the contest being waged thousands of miles away from the homes of the people fighting under the British flag. Already it is said twenty-five thousand of the English soldiers have been taken in different ways from active service, some by death wounds, and some by disease, and there is not in sight. Coming right after the Hague peace conference it looks as if the civilized nations of the world should unite in their efforts at mediation, so that the war may be stopped and bloodshed cease. If it must go on then in the interest of freedom it is to be hoped the Boers are successful. The Democrat is not biased. This spirit is in him from the battle of Bunker Hill.

Next in the United States the Kentucky election contest is attracting the most attention. It is hoped that out of all the chaos order be restored and that that state take its place among the civilized communities of the world, without a sign of the spirit of anarchy displayed when Taylor brought unauthorized a body of men down from the mountains armed in his interest. There has been wrong on both sides. Now is the proper time to turn over a new leaf.

This week a young man while drunk up in eastern Oregon shot his grandfather and tried to kill several others. The act is a sample of what whiskey will do when it is once turned loose. Running or standing, in the palace or in the hotel it is a curse to whatever it touches. If there is a redeeming feature about the whiskey flask and its contents this writer doesn't know what it is. It has been decided that it won't even cure rattlesnake bites.

If Mr. Hicks hadn't predicted a big storm for next week sometime we would praise our winter weather, certainly remarkable when taken all together. But we fear praise might breed a vacuum followed by bad weather. We are not yet out of the woods.

Recently a stranger who had been here hardly long enough to get acquainted in a very few days was decidedly in the swim and where good solid men often go years without getting a wife this man was married in no time and besides had borrowed and run in debt to the tune of several hundred dollars. Then he skipped on a very thin pretext. It is time the public set an example with such fellows. The right kind of a man doesn't want to run the whole city in a day, but will bide his time, and it is a very good sign of bad weather when he goes to running in debt the first thing. When these fellows come around, whatever their business or mission don't be a sucker.

An Anti-Boer Subscriber.

A California friend and subscriber takes the Democrat to task because of its position on the South African war. In defense of the English he charges that it was the Boers who took the aggressive and that the war is being waged on English territory, that the South African republic is republic only in name, that the Boers homes are in no danger, not a hostile shot having been fired on the soil of the Transvaal, that these Christian Boers had been preparing for this war for eighteen years, that at one time when attacked by the Kafirs they applied to this tyrannical British government for aid, and did not call in vain, that this simple pastoral Christian Boer was formerly a slaveholder and that today if he had not been compelled to give them up, that Kruger is so afraid of books coming into the country that he levies a 100 per cent tax on them. He declares that Buller is not entitled to the title of "butcher," referred to by the Democrat and other papers. This is a nutshell in the English side of the matter.

In this country it is probable that it is not appreciated by nine out of ten people, who, notwithstanding many of the narrow laws of the Boers, look upon them as a people of a free republic fighting for their liberty, no matter how long they have been getting ready, so much the better, against a nation who are simply reaching out to get the rich gold and diamond mines of South Africa regardless of the rights of the people there.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The war office says British forces have been checked as reported.

FRANKFORT, Feb. 8.—Gobels funeral was held today. A big affair.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The National suffrage convention met today. Mrs. Danway is among those present.

EDWARD FAILING'S WILL.—The last will and testament of the late Edward Failing was filed for probate this morning. James F. Failing is nominated as executor and Olivia Henderson Failing, wife of deceased, as executrix of the estate. To his daughters and son he bequeaths all his interest in the estate of his father, the late Josiah Failing, share and share alike. Each daughter and the son will also receive a portion of the estate of the late Henry Failing.

To his wife he bequeaths the sum of \$95,000 out of his portion of the estate of his brother; the household furniture, ornaments, etc., and an equal one-half of all other property that he was possessed of at the time of his death.

The remainder of his share of the estate of the late Henry Failing he bequeaths to the daughters of said Henry Failing.—Telegram.

Bard beat Burns badly.

What is the matter of... Albany Centennials. They have hardly... this Chinese New Year, season.

Owners of hogs will have something to show for the hog industry even though an empty pocketbook takes them on the wheat proposition.

There is liable to be trouble in Oregon. The startling news comes from Salem that the new Captain of K Co., Walter Lyon, is a Kentucky man.

A big smelter is the proper thing for Portland, whose location demands such an institution. It is time that city showed the world that it is not asleep.

There are hopes of Kentucky yet. Thousands of people have recently said that you couldn't hire them to live in that state, and yet there are indications that the natives there are coming to their senses.

The man across the river who was arrested for stealing the team of a Chinaman and held for the circuit court, the Democrat is informed by a Soap Creek man was simply playing a joke on the Centennial. Rather a serious joke. Worse than sitting on a pin.

In the intense interest taken in the South African war the Philippines are almost lost sight of, but there is the same old kind of bushwhacking fighting on the part of the Filipinos, who look up aggravatingly from almost all quarters.

An Albany man says a person doesn't have any show at Dawson against the avaricious officials. Cape Nome will soon leave the Klondike in the shade, it is very gratifying to know that the Boers passed some pretty strict laws holding the English in check.

Miller, the New York man at the head of the syndicate that was going to pay investors ten per cent per week, has been arrested and is in jail. The investors who put nearly a million dollars into the business ought also to be arrested or put in the insane asylum.

There is to be a greater affliction in San Francisco than that of Frankfort, Ky. The Jeffries-Corbett fight is to come off there. This means windstorms, fiascos, ink shots, loud boastings, etc. Let the people come down from the hills before it is too late and put a stop to it.

A spinning top constructed on scientific principles has been made by Prof. Charles Jacobus, who for many years was principal of the schools at New Brunswick, N. J. In the presence of the Boston Society of Engineers recently it spun for nearly an hour. What boy could wait that long.

From the Corvallis Times: Brownell's best recommendation for a nomination to congress is that the Oregonian publicly and pointedly called him "a miserable liar," and gave fullest specifications, to all of which Brownell pleaded guilty by making no reply or defense. Thus recommended by the chief republican paper, Brownell would cut a beautiful figure as the standard bearer of his party.

A Swiss inventor has patented a clock which lights and extinguishes gas jets automatically at prearranged periods, an auxiliary hand on the clock being set at the time it is desired to light the jets, when the mechanism turns on the gas and operates an igniter. That's nothing, an Albany man has his alarm clock attached to an electric light in such a manner that when it goes off in the morning it puts on the light which awakens the sleeper.

Several pamphlets received by the Democrat are very suggestive of the spirit of the day and the titles alone make pretty good sermons. They are: Protective taxes favor trusts. Trusts and tariff. The tin plate trust. Trusts and remedies. The window glass trust. Tariff responsible for trusts. Printing paper trust. A steel trust episode. The tariff the mother of trusts.

Baker City may be a booming city, but it is antiquated on the light question. The Democrat says: The Baker City Gas and Coke company has 53 improved Welsbach gas lamps on the streets of this city in filling the five years' contract made with the city. In lighting the lamps one of the gas company's employes, Jeff Perry, uses a horse and it requires about one hour's time to light all of the lamps in the evening and about the same period to extinguish them each morning.

From the Roseburg Review: W. S. U'Ren, the Oregon City populist, so-called, has been forced to show his hand at last. He has been traveling over the state ostensibly to advance the cause of the initiative and referendum, but really to help Senator Joe Simon carry out his scheme of nominating and electing Brownell to congress. It seems that at Astoria U'Ren talked too freely to a republican newspaper man who indiscreetly published his words, and they were taken up by an Oregon City paper which asked U'Ren to explain. Seeing himself cornered at last the whilom initiative and referendum champion caused to be printed a letter in which he admits that he is an agent of the republican party.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—The big labor strike is spreading. MILWAUKEE, Feb. 8.—Wisconsin democrats announce Gov. Peck for vice-president.

No-To-Pae for Fifty Cents. Guaranteed to cure habit, cure, make weak men strong, blood pure. 50c. All druggists.

The meeting of the Republican Editorial Association in Portland will prove official to the country editors. They are taken up measures of which they are united as a means of self protection a correction of abuses. It is safe to say that a thoroughly harmonious country press will make itself felt in the coming campaign.—Eugene Register. The abuses referred to are the non-payment during a campaign for various things done by the papers, heretofore every thing being sponged "free gratis for nothing."

The Proper Thing. New York, Feb. 8.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Major-General Otis will be detached from duty as governor-general of the Philippines and commander of the department of the Pacific immediately after the arrival of the new Philippine commission, and will be ordered to return to the United States.

A Young Friend. WALLA WALLA, Feb. 8.—B. F. Royce, a well known farmer, was shot and killed this evening, at his home twice from here, by his grandson Frank Royce. Frank Royce left the city this afternoon in a drunken condition. When he reached Dixie he became involved in a fight with Rufus Woods, biting the nose of the latter nearly off. Royce proceeded to home or his grandfather. Woods followed in pursuit of Royce. Frank Royce pulled a gun, shot at Woods, but missed him and killed his grandfather. Young Royce then fired several more shots at Woods, but without effect.

Royce set fire to the house, which burned to the ground and the old gentleman's body was consumed. Frank Royce shot four times at F. M. Skinner, a railroad employe. Fortunately Skinner was unharmed. Royce then proceeded down the road with a Winchester in his hand and coming to the place of Ben Fitcher, fired three shots through the house and the fled. The sheriff and posse are in pursuit of Royce.

The Boer War. LONDON, Feb. 9, 4 A. M.—All the messages from the observers with General Buller throw in a phrase or two about "the strength of the Boer position" and the "difficulties of General Buller's work" but they do not carry events beyond Tuesday evening. Their last slender narrative leave the British advance on Vaalkrauts, in the center of a semicircle, where the troops are exposed to the Boer artiller on both sides and in the center.

Holds His Position. LONDON, Feb. 8.—A cable dispatch from Spearman's Camp under today's date says: "Buller holds his position; relief is certain."

Buller cabled the war office that the approximate British casualties in the fighting at Potgieter's drift up to noon Tuesday are: Officers, 2 killed and 15 wounded; noncommissioned officers and men, 216 killed and wounded.

Fatal Wreck. ESCANABA, Mich., Feb. 8.—The Chicago and Northwestern passenger train, which runs between this city and Metropolitan was wrecked in a rear-end collision at Ford river switch at 6:30 tonight. Nine persons were killed, 3 are reported missing, 5 are seriously and 4 slightly injured.

Big Storm. ST. LOUIS, Feb. 8.—The town of Collinsville, Ill., 12 mi. from St. Louis, on the Vandavia railroad, narrowly escaped destruction by a tornado today. Fourteen persons were injured in the immediate vicinity of the village, some of them fatally, and there was much damage to property.

Advance Checked. LONDON, Feb. 8.—A special dispatch from Spearman's Camp, dated Wednesday, Feb. 7, says: Our further advance is the moment prevented, as the Boers enfilade us from their positions on Spionkop and Doornkloof. Our casualties, although estimated at 200, are trifling considering the great importance of the movement just concluded.

In Kentucky. FRANKFORT, Feb. 7.—So far as the situation in the controversy over the governorship of Kentucky is concerned, there was practically no change today. It is stated on excellent authority that Governor Taylor has decided not to sign the Louisville agreement in its present shape.

The Proper Thing. NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—A special to the Times from Washington says: It is learned that under the terms of the Hague treaty, which has just been ratified by the senate, an effort will be made before long to extend such offices as made properly to be extended to the belligerents to bring about a termination of the war in South Africa.

Cur War. MANILA, Feb. 7.—The insurgents have been driven out of Legaspi, province of Albay. The rebels of Tayabas were conveying some 300 Spanish prisoners to Libmanan and on arriving, the prisoners, exhausted and starving, revolted and dispersed their guards with stones and clubs. They also captured a few rifles.

Electing Senators. WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—A minority report has been made to the house bill for the election of senators by the people. It concurs with the principle of the bill, but urges direct elections without awaiting legislative approval for a change of system as proposed by the majority.

Buller Stopped. SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Feb. 7, 6 P. M.—General Buller commenced the advance for the relief of Ladysmith Monday. The naval guns opened at 7 in the morning, and a joint attack was made in front of our position. Three battalions advanced toward the Brakfontein, with six batteries. At 11 o'clock the Boers opened with artillery fire, and sent several shells among the British infantry, who retired one hour later.

Uncle Tommy Anderson continues to have trouble. In consideration of his being taken care of the rest of his life T. J. Anderson decided to send Anderson a fifty one hundred acres of his farm. When Anderson had received the deed he insisted on receiving the other half, which was refused, and not being willing to fulfill the contract T. J. has sued A. for the deed.

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