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Today's Weather.

Portland, Dec. 21.—Western Oregon and Washington—Thursday, occasional rain; probably part snow. Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—rain or snow.

SAVORERS OF JOBBERY.

In order to vindicate their fair name before the citizens of Oregon Hon. John Mitchell and Hon. Binger Hermann will arrive in Portland today to appear before the federal grand jury. Before they concluded to come the yellow journals of Oregon were profuse in their insinuations that they were implicated in the land fraud cases that have created quite a sensation in Oregon. Now that it is known that they are coming to answer any questions touching their complicity in the fraud, the information is sent out that probably they will not be permitted to appear before the grand jury. The whole scheme savors of a political job, and is being managed solely by Attorney Henry Heney, whose antipathy to Senator Mitchell has been very pronounced since Senator Mitchell's objection to him as a witness on behalf of the government. Their objection to Mr. Heney is not based upon any political antipathy they had, but because he had been once convicted and served his time for embezzling the government, and in his opinion, he was not a suitable person to represent the government. But their objections were overruled by the department at Washington, and they are upon the grounds that "it takes a thief to catch a thief."

Placing Mr. Heney in power was the incentive which caused as much trouble as Senator Mitchell as possible, and it is through him and his political friends that the aspersions were cast upon the honesty and integrity of Senator Mitchell. Mr. Heney reckoned without his host, little thinking at the time that he was plotting against a man whose honorable gentleman, that he would leave his post at Washington and endeavor to answer the charges manufactured for the occasion by the land fraud story. Now that both Mitchell and Hermann will arrive in Portland to answer any trumped-up charges that have been formulated by this impostor, the edict has gone forth that neither Mr. Hermann nor Mr. Mitchell will be permitted to appear before the grand jury, but they must stand by the actions of that deliberate body. For if, forsooth, the land fraud shark had induced them to return indictments against either of them.

The people of Oregon and Clatsop county have sufficient confidence in the honor and integrity of both gentlemen and believe that they have been made the scapegoat of an erstwhile dishonest man, who has been convicted of defrauding the government. That his efforts will signify fail, is the consensus of opinion of all fair-minded men. It is certainly a travesty on justice that two honorable gentlemen should be compelled to leave their post at Washington to answer trumped-up charges preferred by a man who has forfeited all rights of recognition from either the government or the people of the state of Oregon.

That Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann will come out of the thing vindicated, completely vindicated of any complicity in the crimes alleged is the opinion of every fair-minded citizen. The imputation against their character will act as a boomerang. The efforts of Land Fraud Heney to extort confessions of Peuter and Mrs. Watson, whose unsavory reputation of ill habits and cohabitation has shocked the sensibilities of the people of the state, who are self-confessed criminals, will come to naught, as the evidence of confessed criminals is regarded with suspicion by courts; and with the least of condemnation by the public which is the jury in the case, no matter what other juries may do.

The Astorian ventures the opinion that the evidence claimed to be so material by Heney and his confessed criminal friends from Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann, will be considered immaterial by Judge Bellinger and that they will be completely exonerated from any complicity, either actual or pretended, is shared by the general public. There is no possible means by which either gentleman could have had any knowledge of predated

frauds, as it is the duty of our representatives in congress to accelerate any business before any department in Washington, and in doing so, they only did what any representative of a state would do, to assist their constituents in securing recognition by the departments at Washington. This is all they did do, and in that, there can be no doubt that they were actuated by honest motives, without any knowledge of efforts to defraud the government.

Such actions by those clothed with a little brief authority savors only of disreputable politics, and those who delve in the cesspools of political chicanery, is only evidence of what contemptible measures men will resort to in order to accomplish revengeful results. No matter what the outcome may be, the people of the state of Oregon, will be satisfied of the innocence of the parties alleged to be implicated, and the result should be to place Mr. Heney and his corrupt cohorts in durable viler, where there will be neither weeping or wailing or gnashing of teeth.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL.

Things wise and otherwise continue to be said on the subject of college football, which is not surprising when the widely different points of view from which it is contemplated are taken into account. At present the critics who think that nearly every feature of the game is repulsive seem to be in the ascendant, as they usually are just after the season has ended; but it is doubtful if their undiscriminating hostility will advance the cause which they have at heart. Dr. Draper, superintendent of education in New York, thought he made some assertions last week to Massachusetts teachers from which we ventured to dissent, came pretty near to a true diagnosis of the case which so many disagreeing doctors have volunteered to treat. He thinks that the game is well worth saving, and that it can be saved without much difficulty if the college authorities will firmly exercise their power, in reliance on the best graduate and undergraduate sentiment.

Of the various evils which are so fiercely assailed some are grossly exaggerated, and some, we believe, are imaginary. No incident is too rare or too remotely related to the sport to serve the purpose of a wholesale indictment and we confidently expect that the death of the venerable Dr. Paxton of Princeton, from a stroke of apoplexy due, it is said, to his becoming over-excited at the recent game with Yale, will be hailed as a striking example of the perils which environ football. One of the latest discoveries solemnly, and perhaps discoverily, accepted as authentic is that of a trainer who announces that the game commonly produces a species of insane delusion in the minds of the players. Doubtless a hard blow on the head may have serious consequences, whether the recipient was playing football at the time or chasing butterflies, and we do not deny that there are too many such mishaps on the gridiron; but we have no reason to believe that the proportion of lunatics in embryo is abnormally large among football players though we have sometimes thought it might be in the grandstand.

One thing which we believe to be true, not only of football, but of American college sports in general, is that students who go for athletics do so, as a rule, not for the sake of the pleasure and benefit to be derived from physical exercise, but in the hope of winning distinction among their fellows and being ultimately crowned with intercollegiate laurels. It is highly probable, for example, that a university crew, whose burdens are considered heavy and whose hour of supreme effort is long delayed, would promptly disband if it were to receive a convincing revelation that it was destined to be beaten. In England, on the contrary, the daily delight in rowing is a sufficient reward. The oarsmen hope to win, of course, and victory is precious; but, win or lose, they feel that they have been amply repaid. Every competent observer has remarked this difference. English university athletes who have visited this country have been greatly impressed by it, and one of the Rhodes scholars at Oxford has recently written an interesting letter on the subject to The Boston Transcript. It is nearly true to say that in our colleges nothing but victory is thought to justify the toil of preparation. In the English universities the pleasure of preparation far outweighs the pain of defeat. This is the right spirit, and until it has become the prevailing spirit here American college sports will not fully serve their essential purpose.

A Des Moines woman gave a birthday dinner the other day at which 90 of her relatives were present. So you see you aren't the only one that's going to be up against the guff this Christmas.

And about 5 o'clock on the morning of the great day the tooting of the horns and rattle of drums below stairs will remind you that it is the season of "peace on earth."

A London paper says a novel suggestion has been made to place the unemployed on juries. There is nothing novel about that in this country. Only here they put 'em on grand juries.

ABBOTT'S SCREED

A Complete Refutation of Doctrines of Erring Brother.

REV. E. L. HOUSE REPLIES

The Statement of Lyman Abbott in a Sermon Before Harvard in the Personality of a Living God Refuted by Evidence.

Editor The Astorian:—The last two days our papers have made much of Lyman Abbott's sermon at Harvard upon the personality of God. May I use your paper to make a statement or two. In the first place, the sermon was delivered to the national council of Congregational churches that met in Des Moines a few weeks ago. At that time the sermon made no sensation upon the council, but fell "flat," and was considered a weak and foolish attempt to resurrect the old idea, long since exploded and given up by the thinking world. Many expressions, such as "In his dotage," "lost his grip," "does not know where he is at," were heard on all sides. His address was considered by all, the one colossal failure of the council.

In the second place it has been admitted that for some philosophers God has been the Undiscovered One. They have not even been sure of His name. Huxley called Him "The Unknown God." Spencer "The Unknowable One." For the Positivist, he has been "the stream of tendency," and for Arnold "The Power that Hakes for Righteousness." But the world knows that these are poor substitutes for God. When the human soul comes to some Garden of Gethsemane, it does not pray, "Oh stream of tendency, let this cup pass from me;" when some soul would bettle against temptation and find forgiveness, it does not pray, "Oh, eternal Synthesis of Organs, forgive my sins." No! Then is the time that the soul says, "Father," God has revealed Himself, as the material world incarnates the mind of God, so Jesus Christ incarnates the heart of God. Well does Paul put it when he says, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, both shined in our hearts, to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

If Lyman Abbott cannot find this personal God in and through Jesus Christ, we are willing to set his experience over against that of Abraham, Moses, Paul, Drummond, Romanes, Moody, Brooks and Fiske, and millions of others. To be sure we shall not find God unto perfection, but there will be a continuous growth in that direction. A child six months old, only knows the outlines of its father's face; when six years old, something of his heart; when a man, something of his care and love. And so we shall not know God unto perfection, but we can, here "know in part," and that knowledge can be personal through Jesus Christ. Sincerely, REV. E. L. HOUSE.

Frauds Show Fraud.

(Continued from page one.)

surveyor of the general land office, some time ago went over this territory, with the end in view, it is said, of ascertaining whether improvements and settlements have been made as represented in the entry of the lands.

This case, if it comes to a head, it is believed will bring to light transactions not unlike those found to exist in the famous 11-7 section.

One solitary witness occupied the attention of the federal grand jury this forenoon, and at 11 o'clock the mysterious body filed out of its mystic chamber, and went forth that an adjournment had been taken until 2 o'clock this afternoon. The one witness was Edwin Hobson of Eugene, who bought the George Howe lands, in the 11-7 district. This witness was before the jury about half an hour, and emerged with a smile on his face, indicating, to all appearances, that something funny had happened, which does not carry with it the seriousness that generally goes with the indictment of men for fraud against the government.

It was announced at the time of adjournment that the grand jury had taken a recess pending the arrival of a witness. While nothing has been given out to show what the length of the deliberations is to be, there prevails an impression that the present case under investigation is drawing near a close. The number of witnesses in attendance at the present time has diminished until only two or three were to be seen this morning, among them J. A. W. Heidecke. There still seems reason to believe that the investigation in progress has to do with Loomis and Ormsby in the 11-7 section. Hobson's testimony is presumed to have had to do with his dealings with McKinley in reference to the George Howe lands in that section.

Ormsby was before the jury yesterday afternoon, but how his story could

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have had anything to do with the case supposed to be before the jury, unless he spoke in his own behalf, is not clear to those on the outside. Mrs. Emma L. Watson was also before the jury yesterday afternoon, and it is regarded as probable that anything she may have told was in relation to the 11-7 district. From the present outlook it does not appear as though there will be a report from the grand jury until tomorrow, if not later.

A report has become current that an effort is being made to tamper with the grand jury, but no official confirmation of this could be procured this morning. An impression prevails that a systematic effort is in progress on the part of those who are on the anxious seat to bring persuasion to bear, with the end in view of influencing the grand jury not to indict. The story goes that the effort extends to creating sympathy for some now supposed to be under scrutiny. It is reported that one jurymen has already been approached in this respect. Thus far the court has taken no public cognizance of the report.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A Large and Varied Assortment at Ekstrom's.

Here are a few articles which will make suitable and handsome Christmas presents for anyone. All popular and stylish, cheap in price, but high in quality. Read: Silver novelties in numerous different patterns, handsome cut glass pieces, sterling silverware, ebony goods in brushes, glasses and toilet sets, fancy umbrellas and canes, match boxes, tableware, fine chains, chafing dishes, carving sets, special watches, diamonds, broches and a thousand other things. It will pay you to consult our prices before going elsewhere.

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Worst of All Experiences. Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years" she writes, "I endured innumerable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was marvelous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist. Go to the New Style Restaurant for a square meal. JUST ARRIVED! large shipment of live Turkeys, Geese and Chickens, from Southern Oregon, at the BOND STREET MARKET the largest poultry house in Astoria. We have hired ten men expressly to dress poultry for the Christmas and New Year's trade. You can save money by buying your poultry from us. Phone 2183 Red. S. A. GIMRE 543-545 Bond St.