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WEATHER.

Western Oregon and Washington—Showers north portion; fair south.

POLITICAL EARLY BIRDS.

If long-drawn preparation, early announcement, far-reaching alignment and unusual excitement and interest are to be taken as indicative of tremendous issues and a great political battle, then the campaign of 1908 for the presidency is to be one of the hugest episodes of national history.

It is not often such stress is laid so early a period and it may be counted a virtue in this particular relation, since the culling will all be done the sooner and the final choices made in ample season to give the people plenty of time in which to weigh the exact merits of men who shall be named at last.

There is one thing fast developing into fixed assurance with the common people, and that is, that the question of the presidency has ceased to be primarily a partisan matter. It will not be, ever, wholly free from this important bearing, but the issue is becoming more and more intimately related to the man than to the party he represents, because the office itself is becoming so immense as to preclude such dependence. The man is to be the great desideratum hereafter, and he must be man clear through and have the confidence of the whole people.

It is well that this exaction is growing, because of the deeper intelligence that will be invested in the campaign work precedent to the choice at the polls. It will not hurt the American people to do a vast deal more thinking than they have done in the past, and may result in infinitely better selection.

At all events, if the outcome in November of next year is not wise and gratifying, it will not be because there was not time enough to make a choice.

THE ABORIGINAL BRUTE.

Are we, as Americans, becoming coarser and lower, in our general estimation and treatment of womankind? The question is worth raising because it is vital to the future of the home and family life of the nation. The testimony of the public press is against us, and we are always free to arraign ourselves if we see fit. There is a story that comes up from San Francisco, sanctioned by the Associated Press, so fearfully significant that it cannot be passed by in silence unless that silence is wrought by the sense of acute self-conviction. It is the story of a young girl, Ethel Hegerton, who, late at night, returning home from an enforced delay in the factory in which she was employed, and being mystified by the new thoroughfares she had to traverse to find the new home her people had that day moved into, asks assistance of a passerby, and is pleasantly greeted, then misled, snared, beaten, and left for dead, and only recovers to fall into more desperate circumstances before she at last finds the haven of her new home. It is a tale one might look for in the horribly true expositions of Russian life told by Maxim Gorky, and has no parallel for sheer brutality in current American press news of the day.

There was a time when even an habitually bad man in this country was willing to lay aside his tendencies and do the manly thing in behalf of innocent girlhood or childhood, but it seems that there is no safety for the young and innocent anywhere; that the trend of thought and action is to the vile and vicious and venal always and everywhere, and that the defenceless must have rigid and specific protection or suffer incalculable shame and hurt at the hands of all men. We are not attempting to account

for what seems to be a tremendous departure from the older and better standards. It is enough to realize that we are forsaking them and becoming deeply responsible for conditions that are a disgrace to manhood. The feat is justified that we are reverting to aboriginal brutishness and must soon renounce the one-time fame for true and honorable conception of our duty toward the helpless, the innocent that was our boast and our pride.

THE ASIATIC CURRENTS.

It is an extraordinary circumstance that the locale of all the great marine disasters of the present year has been, almost without exception, in Asiatic waters. It would seem that none of the great trans-Pacific liners are safe, once they have entered the distorted currents and shifting channels of the Far East. Ship after ship, the biggest and best, the most magnificently equipped and manned of all the fleets of the world, are going down, or ashore, over there almost daily. It is surely no fault of the splendidly trained mariners who for years have carried these same fine vessels in and out those waters without so much as a scar to tell even of carelessness. It can be attributed only to natural causes and mainly the tremendous volcanic and seismic troubles that have gone on record in those latitudes lately; and unless the new conditions are met by scrupulous re-surveys and re-charting it will be in order to keep the American fleets clear and lose less in commerce than more in fearful disaster.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Young ladies visiting West Point are impressed with the idea that war is awfully impolite, to say the least. If Colonel Howze had a whole pocket full of small change he couldn't get a soul to eat ice cream with him.

A heading in an afternoon New York paper read: "Smoother Bryan's pet peace plan—Resolution against lending of money to belligerents killed in peace congress." Truly, the situation grows critical.

Of the 139,118 immigrants that arrived in this country in March 11,405 come into the port of New York. To the West and South: There they are; go and get them.

Winter wheat is said to be in danger on the exchanges. It is feared they will produce a very small crop and that the farmers will have to make up the deficiency.

Woman at the peace conference violently shouted "No! No!" to the advice to keep our powder dry. Can it be that there's a new sort rubbed on damp?

We call the immediate attention of the peace conference to the Daughters of the American Revolution, who are preparing for another.

J. P. Morgan, who is traveling in Italy, was 76 years old yesterday, and his taste for art is growing right along.

Some people sing about a life on the ocean wave, but a life on the cold wave for ours. We're more used to it.

Albert Mr. Carnegie has a bigger job on his hands promoting peace than he had in promoting the steel industry.

Crop news at this stage of the game partakes of all the elements of clairvoyance.

The police round-up shows that Sicily handed us much more than lemons.

We don't hear the Sicilians using slang and saying, "You can search me."

He who is always thinking of the morrow doesn't get much done today.

That loud noise you hear is merely a boom for Bryan.

Surely Mr. Bryan will not permit himself to be misled a third time.

Where there's a wind there's a tust.

Cured of Rheumatism.

Mr. Wm. Henry of Chattanooga, Tenn., had rheumatism in his left arm. "The strength seemed to have gone out of the muscles so that it is useless for work," he says. "I applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm and wrapped the arm in flannel at night, and to my relief I found that the pain gradually left me and the strength returned. In three weeks the rheumatism had disappeared and has not since returned. If troubled with rheumatism try a few applications of Pain Balm. You are certain to be pleased with the relief which it affords. For sale by Frank Hart, and Leading Druggists.

Gently moves the bowels and at the same time stops the cough. Bee's Laxative Cough Syrup. Contains Honey and Tar. No opiates. Best for Coughs, colds, croup, and whooping cough. Satisfaction guaranteed. Children like it. Mothers endorse it. Sold by Frank Hart's Drug Store.

Opening of Spring "Knox" Headgear



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HERMAN WISE

Sole Agent for Astoria

A Woman Tells How to Relieve Rheumatic Pains.

I have been a great sufferer from the dreadful disease, rheumatism, for a number of years. I have tried many medicines but never got much relief from any of them until two years ago, when I bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I found relief before I had used all of one bottle, but kept on applying it and soon felt like a different woman. Through my advice many of my friends have tried it and can tell you how wonderfully it has worked.—Mrs Sarah A. Cole, 140 S. New St., Dover, Del. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is a liniment. The relief from pain which it affords is alone worth many times the cost. It makes rest and sleep possible. For sale by Frank Hart and all leading druggists.

MONUMENT TO DEL REY.

Defended El Caney Against Americans and Died on Field.

HAVANA, April 23.—Many Spaniards here, including members of the Spanish club, have obtained Governor Magoon's permission to erect at El Caney a monument to General Vara del Rey, who defended that place against the Americans. General Vara del Rey was wounded several times, but refused to leave the field and directed the movements of his troops from a stretcher which was placed almost upright by his orders. He died on the battlefield.

Gentle and Effective.

A well known Manitoba editor writes: "As an inside worker I find Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets invaluable for the touches of biliousness natural to sedentary life. Their action being gentle and effective, clearing the digestive tract and the head." Price, 25cents. Samples free, at Frank Hart's and leading druggists.

Whooping Cough.

I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in my family in cases of whooping cough, and want to tell you that it is the best medicine I have ever used.—W. F. Gaston, Posco, Ga. This remedy is safe and sure. For sale by Frank Hart and Leading Druggists.

TROLLEY CAR WRECK.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 23.—One man was fatally injured and one was seriously hurt and half a dozen others are injured in a Mission trolley car when it ran into a work car standing on an open switch at Seventh and Mission streets. Frank G. Poley, motorman on the trolley car was so badly injured that it is said he will die. E. W. Jackson, a passenger on the car, sustained a fractured skull and several other passengers were cut and bruised.

Our Cuban friends couldn't refrain. From raising the Devil again. It seems that a "Little Taffy" and Rocky Mountain Tea Has set the island free. Frank Hart.

Thirty days treatment for kidney bladder troubles and rheumatism, for \$1.00. Your money refunded if not satisfied. Pineules contain no alcohol. Do not derange the stomach. Easy to take. Sold by Frank Hart's Drug Store.

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