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## THE WEATHER

colder in east portion.

AN ECONOMIC ERA DUE.

municipal extravagance, in its editions everywhere; a consummation torial columns of yesterday; a ware-that divests the overwhelming lesing that other cities than Portland son of some of its appalling effect, which I was riding. I dismounted, may well heed, Astoria included, and leaves mankind happier and rich- fastened him and, rifle in hand, went The tendency to take over immeas- er in inspiration. ureable debt and fasten it upon the living and the unborn, irrespective of the benefits accruing, or to accrue, is likely to plunge cities and towns in a slough of fiduciary slavery that only universal repudiation shall ever remove.

and unless it breaks soon, and the people get down to the realities of and private, relation, no man may say where the present course of City. And it means, further, that vicious and reckless extravagance will end.

This city and county are going straight up against an embarrassment of senseless debt as fast as they can; the taxpayers are honest- ity of reprisals against this man; he ly and genuinely frightened at the was nitiless enough, God knows, in prospect of the passing of all stable the long gamut of his offenses, to values under the pressure of exorbitant and absorbing taxes. No sort or advantage has been taken of the 100 per cent advance in he assessed against him; his family is amply values of property made by Assesprofuse and prodigal expenditure of the public funds in every department of civic life here; everything is being done to silence the call to the investor that can be done with any legal semblance; and unless there is a radical and summary change in the merce and every other agency we city and section. There is no use arguing the matter; it is past all argument. The living, galling facts are with us and it is up to those in authority to save the situation. Will they do it?

# THE NEWS FROM ITALY.

Making all deductions for exaggerations inseparable from such disasters, the world is aghast at the news from Southern Italy and its sympathy will set instantly to the devastated shores of that sunny clime, just as it did nearly two years ago when the horrors of San Francisco appealed to it. And America must use this tremendous opportunity to prove her sense of the fabulous generosity that met her greatest trouble with almost incalculable concert, and pour her largess of compassion and practical aid in upon the unhappy people of Italy. She will do it, alright, just as soon as her agencies to this end can be

earnest and expeditious; all the es- more oil from the storage tanks. tablished charities of the country are agog with the spirit of helpfulin the Mediterranean, will be done when one was due against himself. state and community on the globe. 'time to name a proxy.

Lisbon, San Francisco, Messina; these are the names on the tongues a rug. I had promised as soon as I Oregon-Fair, warmer southwest; of men today; and each story bu; should have time to get her one, for having heard the shot which I had magnifies and emphasizes the pitifulness of the other. And these a long trip through the hills and more histories, sad and dreadful as they than a little danger. are, serve a noble purpose in knitting the earth in a mesh of tender-s him I started back, but the going was The Porland Oregonian gives its ness and compassion that must con- bad. By sunset I saw I couldn't hope readers a rinigng warning against tribute to a higher civilization and to get back to camp that night. So I the mad irresponsibility of modern make for universally better condi- looked about for a good, sheltered spot

## REUF IN THE TOILS.

A sigh of genuine relief goes up from the thinking masses of the Pacific Coast at the news from San there is a chance to duplicate, and triplicate, the virtuous judgment, plied time after time as he shall live through them. There is nothing by way of pity to mitigate the extremdeaden any symptom of softness ious enforcement of the limits forth. Abe Reuf has no kick coming; though it may take another sort charged. of courage than that born of endless wealth, to support him through the darkened years before him.

policies now in force, we might as has long since killed every vestige them remain in ignorance as to who the valley, while I scrambled up the at the mouth and nose, he still "stayed well disband the Chamber of Comhis and his interminable, adroit and from them the better it would be for pursuers coming closer and closer. I smoke, and anything he struck or hit costly warfare in the courts has left me him without standing in any tribun- band of borse thleves. al; he was condemned utterly months and months ago, and the judgment of Tuesday is but confir-

mation of the pre-concept of his guilt and the sentence, as far as it goes, finds instant and impersonal may not be the end of the chastening to be inflicted.

It is estimated that the American people distribute 200,000,000 presents at Christmas time, at a cost of \$100,000,000. It may safely be added that this is the best investment of the whole year.

Mr. Taft said at a recent dinner: I am glad you all praise me before modest. The praise in part is due to the several offices he has already filled with fine ability.

Christmas is also a harvest time after your horse, and you can leave Everywhere the deepest feeling of sociates. Working late at night on not need it." commiseration is manifest on the sofa pillows, smoking jackets and part of our people; the press is doll clothes means the withdrawal of

ness; private magnanimity will find place has "established a new govern- the animal and said, "I'll lead the instant expression, and what money ment in Venezuela." Castro is well horse." and the best of fellow-feeling may enough acquainted with revolutiondo to mitigate the awful conditions ists to put himself 3000 miles away quickly, here, and in every civilized He proved to be a good judge of the

AT THE

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# FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS

ries about the "bad men" of the around and saw that the man ahead, west in the early days. I am go- who was only a few feet distant, had ing to tell now of my first "run in" heard the blow and had turned to see with the worst kind of white men that what was the matter, his hand upon then infested the frontier. These were his revolver. We faced each other at horse thieves. And horse stealing in about the same instant, but before he those days was a crime that came could fire, as he tried to do, I shot him a few moments, when, with yells, a close in ranking with cold blooded dead in his trucks. Then, jumping on murder.

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rather, one of my sisters wanted it for and over the rough ground and rocks. not be shot in one's dooryard. It meant they all came rushing down the creek.

After shooting a bear and skinning to camp. Just then my borse whinnied. His call was answered from a hollow just behind the creek bed along on to investigate.

There, bidden in a little guich, were about twenty horses. They weren't guarded. Looking around in the dusk, I saw a dugout about a hundred yards up the hill. Lights appeared through the cracks. I clambered up to learn who was there.

I knocked at the blanket door. The It is time for the dawn of an Francisco, that Abraham Reuf goes voices I had heard as I climbed the economic era; it is long overdue; to the penitentiary for 14 years. This slope were hushed all at once. Then 1 brief term does not measure at all beard a half dozen sharp clicks. That with the sum of this man's iniquity, meant the cocking of rifles or revolvhonest and rational living, in public, but it does compel the conclusion I had stumbled into. Before I could and private, relation, no man may that justice is not dead in the Bay move back some one called.

"Who's there?" "A friend and a white man," I re-

The door opened, and a big, ugly looking fellow stepped forth and said: "Come in."

I accepted the invitation with some degree of fear and hesitation, which I endeavored to conceal, as I thought it was too late to back out and that it would never do to weaken at that that may rise to check the conscient. point, whether they were friends or foes. Upon entering the dugout my eyes fell upon eight as rough and villainous looking men as I ever saw provided for all time to come, and in my life. Two of them I instantly sor Cornelins this year; and there is the application of the Mosaic prin- recognized as teamsters who had been They did not stay with the man whom no let up in the expedients for the ciple fits admirably here, and hence- driving in Lew Simpson's train a few I had shot, but came on in hot pursuit months before and had been dis- of me. They were not mounted and

> They were charged with the murdering and robbing of a ranchman, and, having stolen his horses, it was supposed that they had left the country. The long and foul history of his I gave them no signs of recognition, crimes against civic and social law however, deeming it advisable to let revolvers, which started him on down

> > who's with you?" asked one of the footsteps of my horse, which they men, who appeared to be the leader of heard ahead of them. Soon they bethe gang

"I am entirely alone. I left Horseshoe Station this morning for a bear ed on his back. As soon as they had hunt, and, not finding any bears, I passed me I climbed farther up the endorsement everywhere. Always had determined to camp out for the steep mountain, and, knowing that I with the reservation that 14 years night and wait till morning," said I, had given them the slip and feeling "and just as I was going into camp a few bundred yards down the creek I heard one of your horses whinnying, Station, which was twenty-five miles and then I came to your camp." "Where's your horse?" demanded the

> "I left him down at the creek," I an-They proposed going after the horse,

but I thought that would never do, as it would leave me without any means of escape, and I accordingly said in hopes to throw them off the track, "Captain, I'il leave my gun here and have taken office." Mr. Taft is too go down and get my horse and come back and stay all night."

But my clover little game did not work at all, as one of the desperadoes spoke up and said:

for John D. Rockefeller and his as- your gun here all the same, as you'll

"All right," I replied, for I could certainly have done nothing else. "Come along," said one of them, and

together we went down the creek and The understudy Castro left in his was tied. One of the men unhitched soon came to the spot where my horse

"Very well," said I. "I've got a couple of sage hens here. Lead on."

I picked up the sage heas which I had killed a few hours before and followed the man who was leading the horse, while his companion brought up the rear. The nearer we approached the dugout the more I dreaded the iden of going back among the villainous cutthroats. My first plan of escape having falled, I new determined upon another. I had both of my revolvers with me, the thieves not having thought it necessary to search me. It was now quite dark, and I purposely dropped one of the sage hens and asked the man behind me to pick it up. While he was hunting for it on the ground I quickly pulled out one of my Colt's revolvers and struck him a tremendous blow on the back of the head, knocking him senseless to the

my horse, I rode down the creek as Once I wanted a grizzly bear skin, or, fast as possible, through the darkness

The other outlaws in the dugout, even in those times a big grizzly could fired, knew there was trouble, and



"I shot him dend in his tracks."

suppose by the time they reached the man whom I had knocked down that he had recovered and hurriedly told them of what had happened. were making better time down the rough mountain than I was.

At last they came so near that I saw that I must abandon my horse. I jumped to the ground and gave him a hard slap with the butt of one of my ickly hid behind a large and in a few moments they all rushed "Where are you going, kid, and by me, being led on by the rattling gan firing in the direction of the horse. as they no doubt supposed I was seatcertain I could keep out of their way. I at once struck out for Horseshoe distant. I had very hard traveling at first, but upon reaching lower and better ground I made good headway. walking all night and getting into the station just before daylight, footsore, weary and generally played out.

I immediately waked up the men of the station and told them of my adventure. Slade himself happened to be there, and he at once organized a party to go out in pursuit of the horse thleves

We had a brisk ride and arrived in the immediate vicinity of the thieves' rendezvous at about 10 o'clock in the morning. We approached the dugout "Jim and I will go down with you cautiously, but upon getting in close proximity to it we could discover no horses in sight. No one was inside, and the general appearance of everything indicated that the place had been descried; that the birds had flown. Such indeed proved to be the case.

Among one of my earliest acquaintances was a young man, older than myself, who was destined to become famed in frontier history, while at the same fime legendary gossip has caused his career to be somewhat misunderstood owing to its varied character. quiet, calm and still, for he had struck This was James B. Hickok, who, although his name was James, will live one side of the room and down the in song and story as "Wild Bill." While probably no man in western yelling until he felt sure that every history had so many notches on his gun, it may be said that no man recorded them oftener in defending right. enforcing law and dealing justice.

In our early youth we were associated in many adventures on the plains the results of what was one of the in Indian warfare, wagon trailing. hunting and trapping, and we hap pened to be on the same side of the fence when the civil war between the north and the south left the plains almost alone to the red man.

"Wild Bill" soon became one of the most noted men in the confidence of the Union generals in the extreme southwest. He was a magnificent

specimen of manhood and one of the most deadly shots with rifle or platel that ever lived. In his enthusiasm as a Union spy he made a detour around, down into Texas and back to southwest Missouri and Joined. the Texans under an assumed name and accepted service as a Confederate spy, consequently giving himself the double danger of a spy's fate. Therefore by this means he became of immense service to the Union forces. For many months he was confiden

tial secret service agent for the Confederate forces under General Price in an invasion of Kansas, and in one battle while among their advance guard he saw a maneuver of which he thought the Union general should be informed. He therefore made a dash' from the rebel to the opposing lines His action was so sudden that the southerners thought his horse had be come unruly. The audacity of his movements did not dawn on them for squad took up bot pursuit. Both armies watched in breathless suspense; but, always famed for picking superior mounts, he quickly distanced all save one, who followed close up behind him, firing several shots which whistled close to his ear. Just when Hickok's horse was compelled to vault a small creek he turned in his saddle and with his unerring aim dropped the gallant pursuer from his horse and rode mafely into the Union lines. Here he delivered his information to General Pleasonton, which turned the tide of

Probably the most noted event in his career was his single handed fight with Jacob McCandles and his gang of nine men at Rock Creek, western Kansas, while riding pony express in 1861. This was his first great fight while covering his route, armed only with two Colt revolvers. He halted at Rock Creek Station to find the stock tender dead and his wife excited by his presence. As he approached she exclaimed:

"My heavens, Bill, McCandles and his gang are in the neighborhood, or

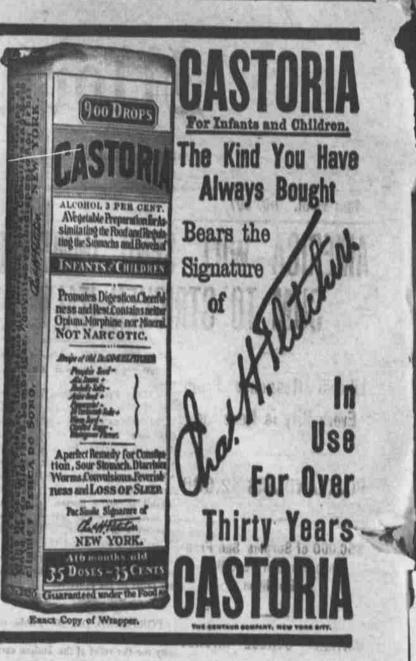
were this morning?" This gong of bandits had been laying a trap for Hickok to get him out of the way. Rushing to the door to remount and get back, he saw several heads pop up out of the grass, and a bullet struck the door jamb. Jumping back and telling the lady to escape, he was fortunate to find a loaded rifle left by the husband which the Mc-Candles gang did not think of, as they saw that Bill was armed only with six shooters. There were some raillery and badinage between him and McCandles of a defiant nature when McCandles and nine bandits rose and, with a yell, charged for the door. They depended on taking the chance of losing some of their men and made a quick charge. Bill's instructions were to me in such cases, "Will, always get the leader." This he did, as he fired straight at McCandles, the bullet catching him full in the beart, and he dropped instantly. By this time the desperadoes were close upon the cabin. Jumping saide, he emptied the revolvers through the cabin door Four men fell dead, besides McCandles, at this stage of the game.

Although wounded with buckshot and bullet and struck over the head with a rifle that caused him to bleed



"Nine bundits charged for the door," ably they assisted him in their destruction. But with his faithful bowie knife he never faltered until all was savage blows, following the devils up other and into corners, striking and one was down.

Hickok was wounded by three bullets and eleven buckshot and cut in thirteen places. It was six months before "Wild Bill" fully recovered from most thrilling exploits in border story -one that is not created by the romancer, but is well authenticatedthat "Wild Bill" in single handed conflict killed fon men, men of the most desperate character.



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