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BACK THAT FAIR.

It is timely now to urge upon the people of the state the necessity of ceasing petty criticisms of the people who are preparing for the Lewis and Clark Fair. It is time that the people of Oregon learned who are friends of the state's progress, and who those that are willing to retard the growth and development that are at hand. In some places, happily becoming less numerous, there are some who have delighted in passing adverse comment upon the Lewis and Clark Fair managers, and in saying that which raises a doubt in the minds of people of other states whether or not Oregon really desires to have aid from them.

Our "knocking" friends in Oregon should remember, first, that their adverse comments reduce the enthusiasm in other neighboring states, and, secondly, decrease the probability that Congress will make an appropriation for the fair.

Senator Mitchell says that Oregon probably must act first, before Congress will do anything. It is possible that Congress might make an appropriation upon the strength of an assurance that Oregon will give the $500,000 that has been asked for by the directors of the corporation. But, it goes without saying, if our people continue to oppose the enterprise, interest in the East will not rise to the pitch that calls for liberality by Congress and advertising by the newspapers.

Let "knockers" remember this, that for every dollar they "knock" from the state appropriation they are "knocking" one from the appropriation of every other state, and also from that of Congress. While the reduction may not be exactly in that proportion, nevertheless it will be found in the end that it will be close to that, and therefore would give deep satisfaction to those who delight most in negative action.

The iconoclasts of Oregon may now operate to their hearts' content. There is opportunity to illustrate the efficiency of "knockers."

MINERS AND FREIGHT RATES.

If, as suggested in the dispatches, the anthracite miners raise the question of freight rates as referred to wages, they will go to the core of the whole controversy. It has been a theory held by many instructed persons, that the excessive freight rate charged for carrying hard coal has been the means of robbing the miners of their share of the proceeds from their toil.

While it may be just to withhold a decision until the testimony has been adduced, it is competent to express an opinion, for the reason that facts have long been in possession of the public, although not in official form. Most people believe that the combination between the coal carrying roads has been for the purpose of controlling carrying charges, as well as for the purpose of reducing expense of administration. No doubt, the latter is a principal reason. No doubt, combination does reduce cost of general management and administration. Yet, also it appears to have been established that freight rates have been excessive, as compared with charges for other commodities and cost of operation.

Whatever may be the eventuation of the commission's inquiry, one truth has been made apparent to the people of the nation—the miners of the hard coal regions of Pennsylvania have been compelled in large numbers to work for starvation wages, and that their children of tender years have in instances without number been forced to labor to assist in the support of the families.

That the inquiry has strengthened the cause of the miners before the people, and proven the right of the contention of John Mitchell, leader of the miners. Just now, President Baer of the coal roads does not quote very high upon the market of American public esteem.

OUR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

One of the defects in our diplomatic service is that we do not retain in it men whose talents have been demonstrated, but depose them too often upon political grounds. England has a better system. She educates a diplomatic corps just as carefully as any school trains its pupils. Men graduate from minor positions to higher posts, and go into foreign ministries with experience to guide them through the intricacies of conflicting interest that must come into their charge. We appoint a man because he is a Republican or a Democrat, according to the dominance of a party. If any department of our public service should come under civil service rules, certainly the diplomatic branch should. Vast interests frequently are entrusted to our ministers. They may embroil us in wars. They may sacrifice enormous commercial concerns. Or, if competent, they may pass through the devious pathways of the diplomat with safety to their home country's rights and interests.

Solomon Hirsch was one of the men who should have been retained in the diplomatic service. True, he left it voluntarily, preferring to attend to large business affairs at home, rather than to serve his country at great personal sacrifice. He was a successful minister to Greece, and would have attained signal advancement and brilliant pre-eminence had he remained in a service to which he brought unusual powers of discrimination and remarkable facility in conciliation. He was fitted to occupy any position of importance in the foreign service, with credit to his country.

Ida Tarbell, writing of the rise of the Standard Oil Company, says it gained its power through the rebate principle in traffic. A secret arrangement was made with the railroads providing for the return of a per centage of the regular freight tariff to the Standard Oil Company, which enabled it to drive competitors from the field, and which has made that concern practically the dictator to all rail lines in the United States. The rebate evil is one against which honest operators strive in vain. No legitimate competition will offset it. It is impossible to do business when your opponent has the advantage of receiving back part of the carrying charge while you receive none. John D. Rockefeller was wise beyond his generation when years ago in Cleveland he effected that arrangement with the railroads which made his company masters of the oil situation, and which is now the most gigantic monopoly on the face of the earth.

For years past the United States has had an anti-trust law which has never been tested adequately. It has remained upon the statute books, the most innocuous thing in all federal law, while the authorities have been in a state of desuetude that brought no harm to the persons who were all of the time forming trusts and preparing to defy all government.

Of what use the short term of Congress is to the people is illustrated in the declaration that the Republican party cannot carry out the promise to correct trust abuses at this time, if such correction involve amendment of the tariff laws. Even advocates of the revision themselves, if Republicans, concur in the conclusion of the majority that the session is too short for them to accomplish anything. Apparently, this short term is merely to pass pension appropriation bills, plan the coming campaign, and prepare a lot of thunder for use therein. Then will the members draw their mileage and salaries, and go home to dig up some other excuse for non-action during the long session.

Lloyd C. Griscom, of Pennsylvania, will be a lot of help to Oregon, as minister to Japan. Oregonians who opposed Barrett may draw consolation as they will from his appointment. Griscom probably knows there is an Oregon on the map, for the presumption is not violent that he has studied geography. But, beyond the faint remembrance that such a name was printed in the text-books, and that Bryant mentioned it in his "Thanatopsis," the new minister to Japan in all likelihood has not thought of it for 10 years, excepting that he knew his rival for the post came from here. He may be expected to forget soon that Oregon exists.

George C. Brownell and his friends in Clackamas County will establish a newspaper. Candidates often regret that, being candidates, they own newspapers. The possession of such a thing frequently embarrasses the candidate, and makes him wish that for the nonce he were out of the publish-business.

It is not a pleasant topic for writing, yet it should be brought to the attention of the public that there is an ordinance prohibiting expectoration upon sidewalks or floors of public buildings or street cars. Pity the ordinance is not enforced. Pity men will make beasts of themselves. Pity they do not remember the repugnance ladies feel when they walk a street whereon filthy men have congregated. While the air is filled with all sorts of cries against this and that abuse in officialism, it would be fortunate if some attention were paid to the enforcement of the anti-expectoration ordinance. Portland would be the better for the agitation.

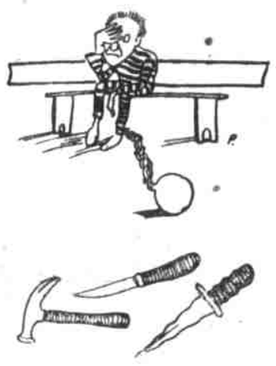
The motto of the Elks is one of the most happily conceived of all that adorn written pages. Their ritual says: "The faults of our brothers we write upon the sand; their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory." The world would be better were this motto made the animating principle.

THE TABASCO COLUMN.

It is simply a suggestion, but in the line of raiding the gambling houses the regular evening entertainment is better patronized than the matinee.

If Colombia doesn't come to her senses about the Panama Canal soon, those Nicaragua volcanoes and earthquakes will have to go out of business.

Molineux's wife, in her plea for a divorce, says that her husband hired detectives to shadow her while he was in



prison. However, she did not have to do anything of the sort, as she always knew where he spent his evenings.

Isn't it double punishment when a man has been sentenced to be hanged, to keep him in suspense while he awaits the action of the Supreme Court?

Germany and England do not want to foreclose any mortgages in Venezuela, but they purpose getting what is owing them according to custom.

The Clark grandson gets $1,000,000 because he is a boy. Now, if he were a girl, how much would she get? You see, every girl is a little dear.

The Sultan of Turkey and President Castro of Venezuela could, together, show the finest collection of ultimatums ever accumulated.

New York street car passengers are allowed 21 inches. This is all right for a 20-inch person, but how about those from 22 inches up?

A special train carried 600 Scandinavians out of Chicago on December 8. They were bound for the old country to spend the holidays.

An attempt is being made to reinstate Gen. Jake Smith. An army that supports so many jaw-smiths ought to stand one Jake.

Can you guess what a Mormon elder's real feelings are along about this season, when Christmas presents become due?

Hanna and Quay have fallen out, and honest men should take advantage of the opportunity to hunt up their property.

The delinquent boarder makes no kick because his meals are late, because he eats according to the time-table.

Venezuela has had 104 revolutions in 70 years. Daughters of the Revolution should be numerous there.

Some of the clocked stockings one gets a glimpse of are loud enough to be classed as alarm clocks.

Has any one heard any one else mention an Iowa gentleman named Henderson, recently?

Half the silver dollars in circulation are

said to be counterfeit, but this is a case in which ignorance is bliss.

The only reason Congress meets in December is to get ready to adjourn for the holidays.

Bryan's Commoner is still for silver, and silver every day is getting commoner.

Now you see it and now you don't—the Republican central committee chairmanship.

That log jam at the Morrison-street bridge would be classed by a printer as pi.

Arizona and New Mexico will probably be refused admission, but Oklahoma is Ok.

An example of the corporation barrel can be seen on Morrison street.

Gambling is defined to be betting money—and losing it.

Mr. Peter Finley is now Dooley married.

OPINIONS OF OTHER EDITORS.

PUT A STOP TO THE RANGE WAR.

Tillamook Headlight: Something should be done without unnecessary delay to put a stop to the range war that has been going on in the West for years. In some of the states there has prevailed since last spring a condition of violence and disorder exceeding the record of any other year. Many homicides and the destruction of a vast amount of property have occurred in Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, but the evil eminence of leading in lawlessness is accorded to Oregon.

It is said that the Montana ranges are so far gone that cattle are too poor to ship and have a bad prospect for winter feed to carry them to spring. The same is true of much of the Colorado range. Five millions of acres of the public range, it is estimated, have been made useless during the season and rendered unfit for grazing for many years, if not permanently. In reference to this, the San Francisco Chronicle remarks that while our people complain of high priced meat and the grazers slaughter each other and destroy property on the American range, rivals are rising north and south of us to take away the commerce which we are treating the wealtrence and sacrificing by inattention to the plain duty of protecting the wealth of the arid region by putting its use and preservation under the control of law. That paper urges that while we are doing this, we are also nullifying the expected efforts of the new federal policy of irrigation, since nine-tenths of the land that will be brought into action by irrigation will find its most profitable use in producing winter feed stock. The matter is manifestly one which, from every point of view, demands such treatment as will effectively remedy the destructive conditions that now prevail.

AN INTERNATIONAL HOLD-UP.

Albany Democrat: This week a very important thing was the attack upon Venezuela by the combined forces of England and Germany. The object was the collection of debts owing the two countries. On account of civil war and an empty pocket-book, Venezuela had been unable to pay her debts, so these two great powers have resorted to force to get their money. If a man was to attempt to collect a debt another man had been unable to pay on account of misfortune, with a gun, he would be considered a scalawag. That is about what England and Germany are, to put it plainly. This kind of business is an outrage on civilization. Besides this is a violation of the Monroe Doctrine. The United States went to war with Spain for imposing on the Cubans. War would probably not be necessary now. A good loud warning would probably do the business.

HAS NO CLAIM ON THE STATE.

Corvallis Times: It is doubtful if Frank Ingram has claims on the state Legislature for an appropriation. It is not very likely that the Legislative Assembly will aid him. It is true that his efforts to wrest the Winchester from the escaping Merrill is an act that the state should recognize and reward. The commonwealth might have future prison escapes, and its treatment of Ingram's act should be such as to induce other convicts in future emergencies to emulate it. It is true that the encounter with Merrill cost Ingram a leg. But it also gave him liberty, and liberty with one leg is better any time than life imprisonment in a penitentiary with two. On this score, Ingram is ahead in the account, and it is probable that Legislators will so regard it. In fact, back of it all is that ugly memory of a fratricide, which neither the noblest deed nor the lapse of time can quite wipe out, even in the presence of crutches and a lost leg.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LABOR.

La Grande Chronicle: Charles T. Yerkes, the street railway magnate, is quoted as having made the following statement concerning labor unions in the United States and England: "The unions have not reached the same perfection in England that they have here. Here the unions aim to raise the standard of labor to that of the best workman. In England the best is leveled down to the worst. The result is that the mechanic is discouraged. That accounts, in part, for the success of the American invasion." It is to be hoped the English idea will never gain the upper hand in the labor unions of this country. The rule followed here is the correct one. It opens the door of opportunity for the workingman, while the other plan tends to keep it closed against him.

VENEZUELA'S NAVY LASTING "VERY QUICK."

Eugene Guard: That Venezuelan "navy" is lasting like the traditional whisky of that McKenzie River character, the old Frenchman, Peplot, "very quick." It was good enough to use about home with the South American neighbors, but when world powers like Great Britain and Germany step in, it is as chaff before a gale.

THE UNDER DOG A YELLOW ONE.

Salem Statesman: While there is always a certain amount of smypathy for the under dog in the fight, it could be wished by the sympathizers that Venezuela wasn't such a yellow one.

THE JOURNAL HAS COME TO STAY.

Eugene Register: The Portland Journal seems to have come to stay. A Hoe perfecting press is to be installed at an early date and the paper enlarged. There should be plenty of room for three big dailies in a city like Portland.

PASS FLAT SALARY LAW.

Salem Journal: The Grange is right on the track of what this paper has always said: It is wisdom to demand that a flat salary law be passed, and indirect taxation extended before giving Portland half a million for their fair. Portland's necessity should be the taxpayers' opportunity to get relief. But these things cannot be done at the regular session. If Governor Geer had put up that kind of a fight for the people, he would find them taking far more interest in his election to the United States Senate.

AN EXPERT'S CONCLUSION.

Astoria Daily Budget: An editor who runs a notes and query column received the following: "What ails my hens? Every morning I find two or three lying on their backs, toes curled up, never to rise again." The editor replied as follows: "Your hens are dead."

THEATER No. 11

TONIGHT'S ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam Grand—Milton Royle in "Friends," one night. Mr. Royle is author of the play and is supported by Mrs. Royle.

The Baker—"We-uns of Tennessee."

Cordray's—"The James Boys of Missouri."

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam Grand—Richard Golden in De Koven and Smith's "Foxy Quiller," Thursday, Friday and Saturday night and matinee.

The Baker—"We-uns of Tennessee," for the week, with Press Club benefit Thursday night.

Cordray's—"The James Boys of Missouri," for the week.

Press Club Benefit to Be Brilliant.

Certainly the benefit tendered by the Baker Theater to the City Press Club of Portland, with "We-uns of Tennessee" as the bill, will be the event of the week, if not of the season. There has been general inquiry for seats, and the streams of applicants at the box office have indicated that the people have determined to make it an occasion for manifesting their regard for the small army of workers who carry the burden of daily toil upon the Portland newspapers.

Every loge seat in the house has been bought by members of the club, the boxes are taken by men prominent in the official and social life of the city. Gov. and Mrs. Geer and Governor-elect and Mrs. Chamberlain will be present, representing the state government, and Mayor Williams and ex-Mayor Rowe also will grace the occasion with their presence, with others well known to all the people. The audience will beyond doubt be the most representative that has assembled in Portland for years. It will draw from political, commercial, professional, artistic and social circles, and provide a dignified company of listeners for the members of the Neill Stock Company. The company is in its best form to give a performance even better than of usual excellence.

Final details were arranged at the meeting of the Press Club yesterday, when reports received from the members indicated that the success of the benefit was assured beyond all doubt.

MANAGERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Christmas Week at Cordray's.

"Pickings from Puck," which will open here at Cordray's week beginning Sunday matinee, December 21, is bound to draw a smile from the most hardened case and provides all excuses for laughter, and the opportunities for fun are fully utilized and it will catch the popular fancy. The book and lyrics are by Clarence Sinn; the music by Theodore Northrup and Clarence Sinn. The chorus is attractive and their voices possess a ringing quality and volume that make them one of the features. Mr. Willard Simms, who has the star role, is one of the famous comedians on the American stage. Special Christmas holiday matinee. Usual matinee Sunday and Saturday.

"Friends."

"Friends," that wonderfully successful comedy drama by Edwin Milton Royle, in which Mr. and Mrs. Royle will be seen at the Marquam Grand tonight, is not that long sought missing quantity, the "X" in the dramatic algebra—"the great American drama." It does not purport to be. It is, however, a work which has commanded almost complete approbation. It is modern and yet it is not based on sexual sin. The noblest feeling of the human heart, the true friendship of man for man, is its theme, and thereby it gives the lie to the theory that only the impure is of present interest. Mr. Royle has long been of the opinion that the problem play has no honest place upon the stage and that it was only dragged on by the force of great but misguided genius in author and player. "None but a very great author may dare to write and none but a very great actress may dare to present one of those questionable things, and even then, with such a combination of genius, and with the best cast possibly obtainable and with the most elaborate and artistic mounting, the problem play does not last. Olga Nethersole, Mrs. Fiske and Duse must all of them produce a new play every season or lose their hold upon the public interest." Such is the view of Mr. Royle, and in which Mrs. Royle thoroughly agrees, neither of them having either presented or assisted in presenting anything but the most wholesome in the drama, the only sort of drama that will stand wear. "Friends" has been seen many times in Portland, and its story is in all probability too well known to need detailed description.

"Foxy Quiller."

Miss Carlotta Gilman, the prima donna of the "Foxy Quiller" Opera Company, has had a career which possibly has no simile in this country. Born with the proverbial golden spoon in her mouth, Miss Gilman when still under the care of the nurse, evidenced a disposition to do something in a musical way. Her father, a man of wealth, contrary to the usual parent in such cases, encouraged his daughter's proclivities. She was sent abroad to be educated and when her instructors would permit her to do so, made her debut in opera. Her success was instantaneous. Through Germany and Russia, where are found the most captious critics, she achieved a series of triumphs. She returned to America and was immediately engaged by Manager Ben Stern for the "Foxy Quiller" Opera Company.

Others in this notable musical organization who will appear at the Marquam Grand Theatre tomorrow, Friday, Saturday matinee and night, are Richard Golden, the eminent comedian, Adolph Zink, Miss Daisy Hamlin, Edna Bronson, Marie Christie, Harry Leone, Melvale Collin, George Head and other well known artists.

"The Telephone Girl."

Three nights only, beginning Thursday, December 18, and matinee Saturday, at Cordray's.

Joe Kane, the well known New York favorite who won unqualified success in the character of the "polite lunatic" in the big New York Casino success, "The Belle of New York," will be seen in this city with "The Telephone Girl," another Casino success, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday matinee. Kane will on this occasion be seen in the character of Hans Nix, the role made famous by Louis Mann, who is now one of the most successful stars in America. Kane, who is a young man, has received the warmest praise for his clever character work wherever seen. Ladies' and children's matinee Saturday.

"Charity Ball."

Next week, starting with Sunday matinee, the Neill Stock Company will present that great society play by Belasco and De Mille, "Charity Ball." The Baker Theater will be packed at every performance and Manager Baker will no doubt be compelled to use his many qualifications to provide room in his cozy playhouse for the immense crowd to the fullest extent. "The Charity Ball" is a play that is ingenious in its plot. Its intensely dramatic situations, its sharply drawn characters, its pungent dialogues, its fine scenic embellishments and its magnificent costumes are among the strong points of the play.

AN ASTONISHING BOY.

It is not a common thing for a boy's mind to be fixed with any remarkable degree of intensity upon the duty of a prompt arrival at school, but there are exceptions to all rules, and little Raymond Scott is one of these exceptions. His story appears in the Philadelphia Inquirer as follows:

Seven-year-old Raymond Scott, of 317 Warren avenue, Camden, had a remarkable escape from a locomotive yesterday morning at Haddon-avenue station, as he was on his way to school. The boy ran across the tracks directly in front of an Atlantic City express. The engine's pilot struck him and he rolled over and over for 30 feet. When picked up the train crew was astonished when Raymond said: "Where are my books? Hurry up, or I'll be late."

SANTA CLAUS IN PORTLAND STORES.

"Santa Claus is such a dear old-fashioned soul! He never changes. With all new inventions and styles he keeps his same old reindeer and fur coat; automobiles and dress suits are for others," so says the world—but wait. All that sounds well and makes the world feel stable, but there isn't a particle of truth in it all, just the same. Why, he has the most advanced notions possible. See how he sends his pictures ahead. There isn't a prima donna in the world who comes half as well heralded. He gets his head on Christmas cards, ads., circulars, posters, candy boxes. Dummies are offered to all the business houses that have room to display them. Of course he keeps his fur coat and sleigh. The world isn't ready to accept anything else. Express his goods? What's the use when all the stores are ready and willing to help dispose of his pack.

He shows discrimination in partitioning them out. He never gets the jewels, for example, in the candy stores. Too bad he doesn't, too.

AT THE JEWELER'S.

Talking of jeweler's notions Santa has certainly sent Portland an unexcelled supply this year. All share much alike, but each has a special line intrusted to him. A. N. Wright has a tempting room full of things, aside from diamonds and watches, but his emphasis is on those two lines this year. And Abendroth is much the same. Santa has given him opera glasses, umbrellas and a few choice repeaters to sell on commission. Jaeger Bros. are interested in toilet sets and brooches of many kinds, largely some choice ones Santa has mounted in diamonds. And Feldenheimer! Well, the old Saint brought him a full line of Honesdale glass, carefully packed away from the heavier Keyserzinn vases and candlesticks. Ivory, ebony and sterling toilet sets were shipped in, too.

IN TOY LAND.

A breezy little incident came up in Lipman, Wolfe & Co.'s toy department yesterday. A chubby little miss in looking over the doll display found a box full of tempting curls, just like Annabel's at home, and drew one out lovingly: "Oh, mamma, see!" she said excitedly, "this hair has lost its doll!"

The mother smiled and pointed out something else, but the usual bystander wasn't so thoughtful.

"Those are for the mothers whose little girls spoil their dollie's hair. Mamma gets one of the wigs and puts it on over the bare place. These heads are for the still more careless girls who break the whole face of their dolly."

The little lady gave the officious one a single look and walked away to the table of baby dolls. She politely held her peace, until her informer had disappeared, then said so disapprovingly:

"That was a most misvaricious person, wasn't it, mamma? Santa mends all my toys in his work shop. Uncle Jim's told me so just piles of times."

ANOTHER ODD REMARK.

It wasn't this same youngster who was waiting for the elevator in Olds, Wortman & King's toy land the other day. She looked back over the display and said sadly: "Most every single thing in this place is for boys." The beds and buggies, the pianos and washtubs passed unnoticed. She missed the dolls, you see, and the rest was a blank. They stepped off at the millinery department and no doubt the room full of babies she saw there soothed her outraged feelings.

Do you know Eugene Field's song of the "Dinkey Bird?" It all came back in passing Carroll's candy parlors. He must have a corner of Wonder—Wonder Land. The poem runs this way:

"In an ocean, 'way out yonder
(As all sapient people know).
Is the land of Wonder—Wonder,
Wherein children love to go.
There the gum-drops grow like cherries,
And taffys thick as peas—
Caramels you pick like berries,
When, and where and how you please."

QUITE AN ARTIST.

Santa's taste in pictures is bothering a certain dabbler in oils. "What's the use," she says, "we spend our time and money on oil paintings when such water colors and prints can be had so reasonably?" She was trying to explain her interest in some prints in the art store of E. H. Moorehouse. Now her friends are joking her for giving up to the march of fashion like the rest of the world.

Santa has left McAllen & McDonnell a fine display of holiday dress patterns, silk waists, natty suits, and handsome linen for the Christmas spreads.

"But we don't make a specialty of our Yuletide dinners as we do our Thanksgiving," some one says. Oh, don't we? Just ask M. C. Mace about that. The turkeys, ducks and oysters he sends out disappear some way.

One grocer on Washington street—isn't it F. Dresser & Co.—finds it worth while filling his windows with sample dainties, all the way from a can of syrup to the mincemeat for pies.

And that hen up at the Creamery near Third on the south side of the street—what is the name of the firm,—anyway their old hen is quite as busy supplying eggs for the housewives as she was at Thanksgiving time. She is really a wonderful bird. Could the excellent cheese and butter surrounding her have anything to do with it? They may make excellent feed, or perhaps it's the odor of the cheese. You remember the cheese buried at the seaside by Jerome K. Jerome's friend. It made the place a health resort for ten years, the air was so bracing. Not that this place—I have it now, the name is La Grande Creamery—has such remarkable cheese. It just seemed possible a milder sort might have a bracing effect on the hen.

ANOTHER OF SANTA'S PLANS.

Santa sometimes gives a firm a present rather than entrust any special line to them. A nice big contract to fit out the Commercial Club with carpets, and a still bigger order of the same line for the Sanitarium at Hot Lake, Oregon, came to J. G. Mack this year.

On the same block an extra assortment of neckwear, mufflers, gloves and hosiery were left at Buffum & Pendleton's. What is the story going the rounds just now: By sending the straight front corsets to Paris America has paid off the score of the Aurora Borealis hosiery she sent this way.

The vender who has been addressing large crowds from his carriage these noons, hasn't a monopoly of stationery and fountain pens. A good big supply found their way into J. K. Gill's, along with miscellaneous books, leather goods, and parlor games.

COLD WEATHER PREDICTED.

At the beginning of winter a weather prophet predicted 31 snowstorms this year. He claims for every fog in August a snowstorm later on. Hope the snow Monday was a sample of what they are to be. It's as well to supply a possible lack in the fur line in the face of such a possibility. Christmas is just the time. G. P. Rummelin & Sons are showing some handsome sealskin garments and shoulder capes. Santa has given Silverfield boas galore. One would-be gift receiver preferred their feather boas. Combined with a proper pride it would keep her quite as warm.

But her husband said no. It was out of the question. He had caught a glimpse of the first sensible muffs he had ever seen at H. Liebes & Co., and meant to present all the ladies of his acquaintance with one. When the tiny ones were all the style a few years back it had preyed on his mind. She pointed out their Persian Lamb jackets and Russian sables, but he would none of them. He sent her down to the furniture stores to pick out something really useful.

After her bill of goods was high enough at Ira Powers' she drifted into Wm. Gadsby's and Henry Jenning & Sons and found choice prices at each place. A desk at Taubenheimer & Schmeer's and a unique table were rivals in her mind and she ended by buying them both.

THE HUSBAND WAS WISE.

While she was soothing her wounded feelings thus, her clever husband slipped into the Moyer Clothing Company to lay in such a supply of ties and dressing jackets his wife couldn't possibly present him with one more. But Mr. Selling said in both of his stores were special clerks noted for steering ladies through the shoals of selection.

Along this line, "Santa is not afraid of a lion when clothed," said a prominent man when he came out of the Lion Clothing Company with a bulging package under his arm. His friends let it pass—he is such a good fellow.

The Chicago Clothing Store may not have a lion, but representing the Windy City they have a splendid supply of overcoats and mufflers. Not to be outdone on point of weather, M. Sichel is offering some bargains in umbrellas and absolutely spot proof felt hats.

JUST FROM CHINA.

Santa has been over to China and brought back the choicest supply of bronzes, ivories, handsome embroidered jackets, robes and center pieces seen in Portland this year. Andrew Kan may pretend to have had something to do with the selection, but it hardly seems likely, for how did the dolls find their way into his second story?

From now on until long after Christmas one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four.

Every day you'll hear—for this season brings a piano to the impatiently waiting maiden. The first lessons are more endurable on Steinway pianos. Parents please copy.

When Santa reached Woodard, Clark & Co. he left his rarest brass work. Cut glass and statuettes were placed within the tempting reach of the buyer. And as for burnt work—well, Santa knew the corner for display.

A MODEL COMPANION.

(London Express.)

A Bristol contemporary publishes a good story which has reached it from Canada. It hangs on an advertisement which appeared in an English paper:

"A lady in delicate health wishes to meet a useful companion. She must be domesticated, musical, an early riser, amiable, of good appearance, and have experience in nursing. A total abstainer preferred. Comfortable home. No salary."

A few days afterward the advertiser received by express a basket labeled: "This side up—with care—perishable." On opening it she found a tabby cat, with a letter on its tail. It read thus:

"Madam—In response to your advertisement I am happy to furnish you with a very useful companion, which you will find exactly suited to your requirements. She is domesticated, a good vocalist, an early riser, possesses an amiable disposition and is considered handsome. She has great experience as nurse, having brought up a large family. I need scarcely add that she is a total abstainer. A salary is no object to her; she will serve you faithfully in return for a comfortable home."

A PRETTY GOOD PLAYER.

(New York News.

"The fact that I am a good musician," said the lady from a country village, "was the means of saving my life during the flood in our town a few years ago."

"How was that?" asked the young lady who sang.

"When the water struck our house my husband got aboard the folding bed and floated down the stream until he was rescued."

"And what did you do?"

"Well, I accompanied him on the piano."