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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

THE JOURNAL'S PLATFORM

A Trinity of Events Which Would Make of Portland the Mightiest City of the Pacific Coast.

- First—Deepen the Columbia river bar. Second—Open the Columbia river to unimpeded navigation at and above The Dalles. Third—Dig an Isthmian canal.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

IT IS the sentiment of the people of Oregon that the special session of the legislature has met for the simple purpose of repealing the present tax law, substituting the old, and for no other purpose whatever.

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advised against any change. Notwithstanding there was no demand for a change, except that fathered by the author of the Phelps law, the legislature did amend it as suggested by him.

It has been suggested that in getting back to the old law the rebate should be reduced from 3 to 2 per cent. We trust this proposal will not be considered.

Upon the subject of repeal the secretary maintains the position he has taken during his entire term of office, and again recommends repeal of the present law.

BRISK CHRISTMAS TRADE.

THE HOLIDAY TRADE of Portland this year has been phenomenally good. Apparently there is nothing of which the merchants can legitimately complain except perhaps an occasional inability to meet all demands of their customers during rush hours.

There were unusual preparations made for the holiday trade this year, yet it is safe to say that the demand for this class of goods has exceeded expectations.

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THE AGITATION over the slot machines is not confined to Portland. The Michigan courts are now after them and they don't draw the line anywhere this side of their complete extinction.

Judge Coolidge of the circuit bench at St. Joseph said: "Complaint has been made to me of the use of slot machines among minors. It is a practice without excuse."

When asked whether any distinction would be made in the several kinds of machines he said no restrictions could be made; they were all operated for the same purpose and all must go.

Portland officials in connection with this have undertaken an easy task.

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News, Gossip and Speculation From the National Capital

Washington Bureau of the Journal. Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—No part of the report of the secretary of the interior, published this week, has been awaited with such eager interest than his remarks about frauds and irregularities under the public land law.

The resolution introduced in the senate last Friday by Senator Tillman questions the power of the president to make a recess appointment where an expiring special session merges into a regular session of congress.

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Hon. W. I. Buchanan, selected by the president recently to be the first United States minister to Panama, has had much experience in diplomatic methods, especially pertaining to South American countries.

Senator Fulton of Oregon, who is starting in on his first senatorial experience, is not deeply impressed, as yet, with the dignity of the great body to which he has been elected.

A committee on rural engineering of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations has made a report to the department of agriculture.

Applications for positions in the proposed Panama canal service are coming in floods from all parts of the country. The applicants want all kinds of positions.

The secretary of agriculture has approved the plans for the new buildings for his department, authorized by congress and for which an appropriation of \$1,500,000 has been granted.

Senator Scott of West Virginia is going to support and vote for the bill providing for an appropriation of \$1,250,000 for a Lewis and Clark expedition.

Washington Cor. New York World. "I don't believe these stories that the president says he is de-light-ed to see everybody," said a New York literary man who had never been at the White House, but who had an engagement.

There has been no lack of liberality in obliging Mr. Dowie with publicity. If he has anything that the public really wants he should prosper.

There is no doubt that the woman who loves you forgives you too much, while the woman whom you love forgives you too little.

The Taming of Terrible Teddy, or, What's the Matter With Hanna?

Washington Dispatch in New York World.

Washington, Dec. 21.—"Walla Walla," shouted the conductor of the president's private train one day last May.

He was in rare form that morning. Loeb stood by and listened ecstatically. "Isn't it great?" he asked.

"Great!" whispered Loeb, tremulously. "Great!"

"Pretty fair," assented Senator Beveridge. "But did you hear my speech on the folly of the financial policy of M. De Witte in Russia?"

"Cleveland, O.—It does not seem necessary for the state convention to indorse you this year. Why not wait until next year?"

Loeb stood waiting with the telegrams. The president read hastily. The president finished his speech amid thunder of applause.

Five minutes later it was officially announced that the president did not see why any person who was for nomination in 1904 should not say so in 1903.

Loeb wept tears of admiring joy. "Great!" he said. "Great!"

Summer jogged along at Oyster Bay. The president frequently remarked with great satisfaction on the situation in Ohio.

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PEOPLE ME. BRYAN MET.

Distinguished Nebraskan Tells of Experience in Crossing Ocean.

W. J. B. in The Commoner. An ocean voyage furnishes an excellent opportunity for extending one's acquaintance.

Reflections of a Bachelor. From the New York Post. Next to being pretty herself, a woman would rather have her best friend not be.

Good Prescription. From the Philadelphia North American. Expert John B. Smith says that by draining of the water he can destroy the Jersey mosquito.

Costly Scenery. From the New Orleans Times-Democrat. A young wife's rainbow smile—the kind that comes after a shower—is beautiful, but it is also the most expensive kind of scenery produced on the human face.

A STORY OF ADMIRAL GHERARDI.

From the Annapolis Chronicle. Rear Admiral Gherardi was in Annapolis about 10 or 12 years ago for the commencement exercises at the naval academy.

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AN OBSERVER.

From the Blue Mountain Eagle. If you read the news of Grant county you will be modest this time, and ask for only \$500,000.

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