

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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MONDAY - - JANUARY 24, 1898

MORE IMPORTANT TESTIMONY.

The best editorials a Republican newspaper can publish are unbiased reports of the revival in business affairs. The country is progressing most satisfactorily in regaining prosperity, and everyone but those blinded by prejudice are seeing the facts and are willing to admit them. The weekly reports from Dun and Bradstreets only confirm what each locality has already experienced. Bradstreets, for the week ending Saturday, says:

"A large measure of activity in business and industrial lines, with, in some instances, previous records surpassed, and very general steadiness in prices for staples, is perhaps the most notable feature of the trade during the past week. Quotations of cereals show the most aggressive strength, while those of some makes of pig iron betray rather a more decided weakness than they did a week ago. Mild weather is frequently mentioned as an influence tending to check retail distributions in spring goods, because of the effect on country dealers. Spring trade opens slowly at this time of the year, but confidence is still unimpaired.

"As already intimated, the immense current production of pig iron, amounting to fully 1,000,000 tons per month, has begun to increase an influence upon the price of that staple, but decreases reported are still only fractional. The outlook in the steel rail trade is reported as a flattering one. Large orders for railroad account already booked have been increased within the week, an example of this being furnished by sales of 15,000 tons reported from Chicago at full prices.

"Higher prices for wool abroad based partly on short-yield reports, are reflected in the firmness of domestic quotations, although the demand, while comparing well with most preceding years, is smaller than it was at this time in 1897, when the tariff changes were being anticipated. The industrial situation, with the single exception of the cotton industry, is one of exceptional strength."

DURRANT'S CONVICTION.

From a psychical standpoint the mental condition of Durrant has attracted much attention in medical circles. Among the physicians who attended the execution was Dr. Carl Renz of Oakland. He went to study the condemned man psychologically, and came to the conclusion that he was abnormal and not entirely responsible for his deeds. The doctor is quoted as saying:

Durrant himself was the quietest man of all who were present. Everybody was impressed by this fact, and not once did he falter or tremble. This very quietness of manner is to my mind one of the strongest proofs that he was abnormal. He spoke in the most nonchalant manner, just like a man in an after-dinner speech. His face was less pale than the faces of many of the spectators, and during the remarks his features and eyes brightened and his whole appearance was animated. There is no doubt about his being abnormal and a degenerate. This opinion is certain and sure, and consequently Durrant, could not be held entirely responsible for his misdeeds.

If the conclusions of the medical experts are correct, then no one need regret that Durrant met the death he did. The world has no room within its confines for such a fiend as the perpetrator of the Emmanuel church murders. Whether the mental condition of the man who committed them

is such as to preclude responsibility makes little or no difference.

The conclusion of Durrant being a degenerate of the worst type seems a reasonable one, as none but such a being could have done the deeds and then retained such remarkable composure. It is about the only solution the question offers.

It would be a strange incident in history if Japan, which a few years ago was classed among the insignificant governments of the world, should, now that she has risen to a recognized position, bring on a general war over the partition of China. Yet such a result is not among the impossible. The division of China is the absorbing question for the European powers. Each wants as large a share as possible, but all fear a general war. It is the conceit and ambition of Japan that causes concern, and when once the die is cast, all the great European governments will be drawn into the conflict.

Now that Mr. McKenna has been appointed and confirmed a justice of the supreme court, the nation hopes that he will acquit himself in such a way as to show his opponents were mistaken in their estimates of his abilities. In the learning, patriotism and honesty of the United States supreme court, lies, in a large measure, the safety of the commonwealth.

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Taken Up.

Came to my place on 3-Mile, about the 25th of November, a straw-bay roan mare, branded V P (connected on the left shoulder, about 5 years old. Owner can have same by paying charges.

M. S. EVANS, The Dalles, Or.

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