East Oregonian

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1902.

One of the horrors of the soldier's life in the Philippines is the cholera. All Americans should endeavor to save the soldier boys from this risk as soon as possible, but troubles never come singly.

There is talk of Governor Van Sant of Minnesota for Roosevelt's running mate in 1904. They are counting chickens before they are hatched. They have not asked that old rooster, Mark Hanna, about it yet.

Knight him first and hang him afterwards was the sentence imposed by an old king upon a brave rogue and criminal. This was a grim way of confering a compliment and imposing a penalty at one and the same time.

If democrats in office will exert themselves to accomplish something in behalf of good government there would be more reason for putting them into office. When they do nothing but draw the salary then they are eligible to be succeeded by republicans.

The tracing or chasing of Merrill and Tracey is not without picnic features. But it is no child's play, after all. It is easier to tell how it can be done successfully than to do it. To hunt for two desperate men in the thick brush is worse than looking for the proverbial needle in a hay stack.

Hobson's eyes are so bad that he desires to be retired from active duty on full pay. He may be granted his wish and request and in that event there will be a remarkable cure of sore eyes in the shortest space of time. Mr. Hobson possesses some characteristics that are not becoming to a brave and sincere man.

The Olney boom started in Tennessee and was killed promptly by that old and capable democrat himself. A true democrat does not seek office, the office should seek him. When an office is sought for it is a sure sign that it is wanted for what there is in it and without any desire of serving the people or advancing the cause of democracy.

Some people are inclined to consider that Tom Johnson of Ohio, is not a democrat but a visionaire. Doubtless he is, but what is democracy if it is not largely a vision? Tom Johnson would make politics as sacred as religion and the democratic party as pure as a church in its spreading of justice and the equality of opportunity in the interests of all men. So far Tom Johnson is visionary, that is, not so practical that he is a thief or a hypocrite.

Kilauea and Mauna Loa, Hawaii, are a little jealous of Mount Pelee, and threaten to do a little spouting on their own account. It is a pity that a volcano could not be located in the vicinity of congress and fixed with a string so the people could pull it and start it into activity every time congress acted in the interests of privilege against the people. If an arrangement of this kind could be perfected it is quite likely that the mountain would be kept busy all the time.

General Miles has been rebuked, Funstan has been silenced and his mouth completely closed, and now Major Waller is up against it for talking. After a while an army officer can hardly be as good or as free as an ordinary citizen. Terrible Teddy appears to be the boss of the national hen roost. The fact of the matter is, the army has nothing left to content itself with but swearing under its breath. If the army is not to be allowed to either strut or spout what is to become of it, anyhow? We will write at once and ask Roosevelt.

Mr. Schwab, of steel trust fame, has just handed over to his brother a $50,000 a year position. Mr. Schwab has become a prominent member of the house of privilege and he owes much to the republiccan doctrine of protection to home industry. That is the label on the bottle from which he drew the milk that nouished him into a steel trust baron and that gave him powers and privileges equal to those of the presidetn of the United States. And yet there are men who think the democratic party should be as near like the republican party as one pea is like another.

BRYAN'S COMMONER SHOTS.

The following is taken from among the brief editorial paragraphs in W. J. Bryan's paper the Commoner:

Railroad Magnate Hill says that he can't get justice in Minnesota. But does he want justice?

Kitchener has achieved a glorious victory, but another one like it would send John Bull to the alms house.

We are waiting with some impatience to see the administration organs denounce General Chaffee for "attacking the army."

The trust magnates are now enjoying their summer vacations. So are a lot of trust employes—but the vacations are different.

There is nothing surprising about the acquittal of the Philadelphia ballot box stuffer. The only wonder is that he was ever arrested.

After all we have done for it the Belgian hare has deserted us in our troublous times of beef trust squeezing. The Belgian hare is ungrateful.

"Patton clears $500,000 in oat corner!" shouts the Inter-Ocean. Is that another evidence of the prosperity that the reupblicans want to let alone?

It is hoped that the reorganizers will not give so much prominence to bolters as to leave the impression that a democrat must bolt in order to gain prominence in the party.

The Ohio republicans claim to have adopted a tariff reform platform. Of course they will insist that the tariff be reformed by those vitaly interested in the retention of the tariff.

It seems that a large number of bankers have been benefited by the services of oculists. They are beginning to see the ulterior motives of the financiers who talked so loudly about "national honor" and "sound money."

The democrats of Oregon won out on their governor in the recent election, but the fact that the republicans elected the rest of the ticket and the congressmen makes it more a personal victory than a triumph of the principles of the party.

A number of beef packers who so loudly denounced the democratic platform in 1896 for the plank denouncing "government by injunction" are engaged in thinking a bit. Even the beef packers object to it under certain circumstances.

Senator Allison has written a constituent that he is opposed to the popular election of senators and prefers to leave it in the hands of the legislatures. This is disapointing in view of the fact that an Iowa legislature has declared itself in favor of the popular election of senators. If the senator feels that he has fairly represented the people of his state he ought not to be afraid to trust his political career in their hands.

If any democrat feels tempted to vote against the popular election of senators let him read Jefferson's letter to John Taylor (page 800 of the Jeffersonian Encyclopedia, published by Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York City) and he will find these words: "In the general government the senate is scarcely republican at all, as not elected by the people directly and so long secured even against those who do elect them." The democratic party was first called the republican party, and it will be seen from the above quotation that Jefferson regarded the method of election as out of harmony with that which should prevail in a popular government.

HANNA AND ROOSEVELT.

The republican convention of Ohio was so lavishly unreserved in its devotion to Hanna that Roosevelt's friends have thought best to suffer in silence no longer. So Congressman Burton, of Cleveland, has gone into training against Hanna for the senatorship, and has interested President Roosevelt into breakfast into Hanna's civil service reserves. These reserves were early set aside for Mr. Hanna by the late President McKinley, and so scandalous were the subsequent appointments to Federal office in Cleveland that the Federal building had acquired the name of "Hanna's retreat." Whenever a Hanna politician has lost his job in the city or county Hanna has promptly landed him at a Federal desk, no other qualifications being required than fidelity to Hanna. Yet no account was taken of the civil service scandal by the truly good republicans like Mr. Burton, until Mr. Hanna's disgraceful devotees were discovered "stacking the cards" against the administration.

That was indeed scandalous, and Mr. Burton complained directly to President Roosevelt, who is reported to have decided to investigate, in the very face of Hanna's protests. "The affair may be smoothed over," says the inspired report; but smoothing over is really out of the question. Though this particular squabble over "Hanna's retreat" may be quieted down, and though in itself it is a small affair the contest between Hanna and Roosevelt over the presidential nomination of their party, of which this squabble is only a preliminary skirmish, is in its nature irreconcilable. It cannot be smoothed over until after the national convention adjourns.

In the meantime it is to be assumed that Mr. Hanna will use civil service officials to the fullest extent of his power to promote his ambitions. As a politician he is essentially a spoilsman, and makes no pretense of being anything better. Mr. Roosevelt is probably not a spoilsman in the same way that Mr. Hanna is; but it is doubtful if any one in political authority has done more than he to nullify the merit system. Though he posed well enough as the friend of the merit system while he was a civil service reform agitator, he has as president given it a solar plexus blow. On the 29th of May he issued an executive interpretation of the civil service rules which enables spoilsmen in office to discharge subordinates with the same freedom that spoilsmen enjoyed before any merit rules had been adopted. They need only say that the discharge is not for political or religious reasons, and that ends it. The reason may be political or religious, in fact, and even the reason which is acknowledged may have no bearing whatever upon the civil service qualifications of the victim, but at the word he goes.—Louis Post's paper, "The Public.

H. L. Frank, of Butte, has sold a three-fourths interest in his coal mines at Franklin, B. C., to a French syndicate for $1,300,000.