

# THE WEST.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

FLORENCE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

W. H. WEATHERSON  
Editor and Proprietor.

## THE LUMBER TARIFF.

Tacoma Ledger.

The democratic papers are revelling in what they indifferently call the inequalities and the iniquities of the Dingley bill. They and their kind have done the same with regard to every tariff since the beginning of the government.

It will probably never be possible to determine how equitable and inequitable a tariff is, because it will probably never be possible to make one that is absolutely equitable in all respects. It is made as nearly so as something over four hundred statesmen of different views, and representing diverse interests can make it, and that is the best that can be done. Its imperfections are reduced to a minimum and the rest is left to time and experience for its administration or correction. If it is bad in any respect or in many respects it cannot by any possibility be comparable in badness with such free trade or "revenue only" laws as the democrats have forced us to experiment with. It is a few by taking from them a trifle more than they ought to pay, it compensates them again with advantages they could not have without it. If it compels them to pay, it gives them a chance to get something to pay with. The Wilson law, our last experiment with a democratic measure, took everything that everybody had, and gave nothing in return. It was absolutely without a redeeming feature.

One of the chief criticisms of these democratic writers is aimed at the lumber schedule. They consider it particularly iniquitous. They look only on the side of the purchaser of lumber and insist that he must now pay \$2 per thousand more than formerly because the tariff is \$2 per thousand, but this is not true. The price of lumber has not advanced that much, nor will it. It will advance sufficiently to give our lumber mills the benefit of our own market, and then competition will do the rest. There will be a benefit to all from thus having our own market supplied by our manufacturers that these critics wholly and persistently overlook. They do not realize how much of an element lumber manufacturing is in our home business, how many men it employs, or how great an advantage it is to us to have these men continually employed at comfortable wages. In the closing debate on the bill Senator Burroughs, of Michigan, presented some figures on this subject that are almost surprising. These figures are from the census of 1890, and show that in that year the capital investment in the lumber business by 24,000 establishments, was \$750,000,000; that they employed 600,000 people and paid them \$130,000,000 each year. The effect of the Wilson law on this immense industry was disastrous. In 1894 the failures numbered 314, with liabilities aggregating \$5,897,000; in 1895 the failures were 298, with liabilities of \$6,084,000; and in 1896, the failures 493, with liabilities of \$16,314,532.

It may be that there is some inequality or even iniquity, in a lumber tariff, but there can scarcely be any iniquity in it that will compare with one that destroys at this fearful rate.

As an evidence of returning prosperity is the fact that business in railroad passenger and freight traffic is greatly increasing, necessitating an increase in employes. There is a demand in railroad hands of all classes, caused by the increase in business, and men who have been discharged during the past few years for various causes are now asked to come back and go to work.—Register.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in an opinion to the secretary, has decided that goods and productions of a foreign country not contiguous to the United States, which are regularly imported into Canada, and after exported to the United States, are subject to a discrimination of 10 per cent. provided for in the new tariff act, and also that the method of conveyance, whether by water, rail or otherwise, is not material.

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## CUBA LOST TO SPAIN.

Oregonian.

It is a common opinion with those who are well informed as to the struggle in Cuba that Spain will be compelled to abandon her efforts to quell the revolution, and consequently will lose this greatest of her remaining colonial possessions. European statesmen are more chary of their opinions on such a subject than ours; but the European press, and in particular that of Great Britain, clearly foreshadows the opinion that Spain must give it up.

There has been almost continual insurrection in Cuba for nearly half a century. Spanish commanders have, indeed, at different times reported the island "pacified;" yet it has been scarcely possible to tell where one rebellion has ended and another begun. The present one has been very active for about three years. It is impossible to believe that the Spanish forces have been ably commanded, since more than 200,000 men have been sent over from Spain, and large numbers have been recruited, or pressed, in Cuba; while the insurgents never have numbered more than a few thousands, and these for the most part but indifferently armed.

The country, however presents great difficulties to military operations both on account of its mountainous character and its tropical vegetation. Moreover, active military operations have to be discontinued during the rainy season, from the end of April to the end of October, on account of the state of the roads and the prevalence of fevers engendered by heat and dampness. The muddy trails of the country become impassable for the considerable bodies of men and material, while small parties of insurgents steal through the mountain passes with which they are familiar and cut off detachments of government troops. In such a war there is no general battle; and the skirmishes, though frequent, have no result but to wear and tire out the Spanish troops. Yet the Spanish forces are many times stronger, numerically, than their opponents, and the disparity in the point of equipment is still greater. While the interest of one party is to come to a pitched battle, it is equally the legitimate policy of the other to avoid such trial of strength. The insurgents are not in a hurry; they are not straitened for time, and the effect of their warfare goes not so much against Spain's actual and present military power as against her financial credit. This is Spain's vulnerable point. If she had money or could get it, she could yet put down the rebellion. But money she has not, and her credit is virtually at an end. Every deficit in the revenue of Spain, every fall of her securities, every unpaid bill for transportation, is a victory for the insurgents. The policy of the insurrection, therefore, is a deliberate one, and its purpose is to wear out the power of Spain.

It is curious to observe that the West Indian wars are all on the same pattern, determined by climate and topography. The French were as unable to subdue San Domingo as the Spanish are to subdue Cuba; and the maroons in Jamaica, in their rebellion against the English, held mountain fastnesses from which they defied the British government for 75 years. The headquarters of the Cuban insurgents is the top of a mountain 25 miles from Puerto Principe. It is extremely difficult of access, in the face of even very slight opposition. For a considerable distance the pathway is a mere spiral trail winding round the side of a steep mountain, and overgrown with tropical vegetation. Numbers are of no avail in such a position. At the top of the mountain is a large space tolerably level, where corn, sweet potatoes and other island products are grown. Held by a small body of resolute men, the place is equally difficult to storm or to starve. One great care of the Spaniards naturally has been to maintain a coast guard, so that military supplies, and especially arms and ammunition, may not reach the insurgents from without, but in spite of all vigilance, this is not quite successful; and the insurgents often succeed in capturing small quantities of military supplies from their enemies.

Secretary Sherman recently said it was certain that Cuba was lost to Spain. This judgement, which is that of many observers, is founded on Spain's financial exhaustion. She is quite incapable of further effective effort, through lack of the sinews of war.

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASH., D. C., Aug. 9, 1897.

The return of Secretary Sherman to Washington and his resumption of his duties as secretary of state, at this time, when almost the entire administration is on a vacation, has started the rumor mill to working over time, although Mr. Sherman declares that his return has no significance whatever; that he resumed work because he felt like it, and that he intends working right through the rest of the summer, unless a spell of warm weather should drive him away for another little rest. Most of the rumors are connected in some way with Japan and Hawaii, but this may be because of the reported intention of Minister Sewall to declare a protectorate over Hawaii, which was brought on one of last week's steamers, or because of Secretary Sherman having officially notified Japan that the United States would not guarantee the carrying out of the verdict of the arbitration between Japan and Hawaii.

Some of the facts brought out in the hearing now going on before the patent office, in which John Wedderburn & Co. are being allowed an opportunity to show why they should not be disbarred from practice before that office for fraudulent practices, should greatly interest the inventors of this country. For instance, patent office officials have testified that of the more than 3,700 applications for patents filed within two years in the office of Wedderburn & Co., more than 1800 have been absolutely unpatentable, for lack of novelty, and the patentable points in a large number of the remainder have been of such an insignificant nature as not to justify the inventor in paying, the cost of obtaining a patent; and that the firm has solicited and in many cases secured additional fees for applying for foreign patents for these unpatentable devices, as well as sought and obtained money for advertising the same for sale, either knowingly or through ignorance of what any efficient patent attorney should have known.

If Mr. Preston, director of the U. S. mint, is a trustworthy prophet the decline in the price of silver is likely to continue until about one-fourth of the present price has been chopped off. Speaking of the matter Mr. Preston said: "I see no future for silver whatever, 56 cents an ounce is the current quotation. It is my honest opinion that within six months silver will fall to 40 cents an ounce. There is no demand for it anywhere; China is not buying any, Japan is out of the business and there seems to be no demand for it in any country to any extent, even to use as subsidiary coinage." Other men of prominence who have studied the silver question long and earnestly decline to put themselves on record as positively as Mr. Preston does, but nearly every one questioned whose opinion is entitled to weight expressed grave doubts about the future of silver.

The interior department is now wrestling with a new problem, which, while it does not involve any great or really important question is more or less interesting, because in it are tangled up the official fortunes of two individuals who have been nominated, and confirmed by the senate, for the same office, and who are both on their way, by different routes, to the scene of their future official labors; but the official future of one of them will be short lived, as his resignation will be demanded as soon as the official papers can catch up with him. The story is not so complicated as might be supposed. As soon as the Sundry Civil appropriation bill, which authorized the appointments of additional U. S. commissioners for Alaska, became a law, Senator Wilson of Washington, succeeded in getting W. J. Jones, of his state, nominated for commissioner at St. Michael, and his nomination was promptly confirmed. Then Mr. Jones wrote to Senator Wilson saying that he didn't want the place and would resign and the senator notified the secretary of the interior. In order to save time Mr. L. B. Shepherd was nominated and confirmed, and started for St. Michael, the Clondyke gold excitement having added much importance to the position. When the interior department heard from Mr. Jones, instead of getting his resignation it got his bond, properly approved, and the notification that he had taken the oath of office and started for St. Michael. Both men cannot hold the same office, and the department has decided that Mr. Jones has got to live up to his

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letter to Senator Wilson and resign and it is supposed that he will do so as soon as he gets the communication sent him, but suppose he shouldn't? There might be no end of trouble in Alaska before he could be removed.

Hon. Benj. Bulterworth, commissioner of patents, has just issued an order requiring all patent attorneys to be registered in the U. S. patent office, and stating the requirements for registrations. It is considered to be one of the most important orders ever issued by a commissioner of patents, and to be a long step toward the reformation of some of the abuses of patent practice.

## BETTER CONSIDER IT.

Herald Disseminator.

Those affected with the Alaskan gold fever would do well to look round, nearer home, and see if there are not some chances of prospecting for the shining metal without enduring all the hardships and trials incident to the far northern land. In fact just as good mines in prospect, close at home, as will be left for the poor struggling prospector who gets into the Clondyke late this fall or even next spring, after the known territory of rich placer diggings has been occupied. Just as the Chronicle puts it, "the miner who proposes leaving a steady job on the mother lode of California to go to the Clondyke this fall is taking chances with luck, and certainties with expense and trouble which warrant his friends in using reasonable means of inducing him to change his mind. The lure which tempts him is the prospect of either getting a claim of his own or hiring out at high wages to those who have claims. But is there any real reason to hope that he can obtain a gold producing property? There are no placers to be had on the Clondyke nor for 150 miles around Dawson except for cash. All have been taken up. Whether there are other placer grounds is a problem which will be unsolvable until the spring floods supply water for washings. If there are, half of them must go to the Dominion government and the remainder will be heavily taxed. The miner who is now making a living on the mother lode had better stay there and be thankful for his chance. Even as a Clondyke prospector his case would be far from reassuring were the field twice as attractive as it is. We have already described the perils of the journey, the shortness of the days in winter, and the enormous cost of living. No one ought to go to Dawson City with less than a ton of provisions. Saying nothing about the first cost and the ocean freight, the expense of packing it over the Chilcoot mountains is \$500. Then the high Canadian duties must be paid. Freight between Dawson City and the diggings costs about the same as over the Chilcoot, that is to say, a little less than \$500 per ton. Clearly, therefore, no poor man can bear the expense of putting himself with enough supplies to save him from starvation upon the Clondyke ground. His food will then have cost him over \$1 a pound. He may get all the assurances to the contrary from transportation and outfitting companies, from syndicates that want to congest the labor market, and from the rogues who prey upon the credulous, but the facts as we state them will bear the test of the existing freight schedules and of Canadian laws."

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## RESULT OF POSSIBLE WAR.

Sunday Welcome. It is not beyond the range of reasonable possibility that the United States will enlarge its Northwestern possession before the lapse of many years. It would be putting it too strongly to predict war in the near future between the United States and England or Canada, yet such an event may happen again, as it has happened twice before. Any oppressive or illiberal policy on the part of the Dominion government with respect to the gold-fields will almost certainly result in trouble, and it would need no very aggravated injuries or insults to American miners to lead to a declaration of war. A president is necessarily a politician, and knows that war with England on any reasonable provocation would be popular. The result of a war would be the certain extension of our boundary lines, and the possible acquisition of British Columbia and the Northwest Territory, Great Britain's possessions on the Pacific are a constant menace to us, and if she provokes Uncle Sam to take up arms, he will scarcely lay them down till he has driven England from these shores,

## Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

Short absence quickens love, long absence kills it.

Human judgement, like Luther's drunken peasant, when saved from falling on one side, topples over on the other.

An apology in the original sense was a pleading off from a charge or imputation, by explaining principles or conduct. It therefore amounted to a vindication.

The contemporary mind may in rare cases be taken by storm; but posterity never. The tribunal of the present is accessible to influences; that of the future is incorrupt.

The soundest argument will produce no more conviction in an empty head than the most superficial declamation; as a feather and guinea fall with equal velocity in a vacuum.

Though the knowledge the ancients have left us be worth our study, yet they exhausted not all its treasures; they left a great deal for the industry and sagacity of after-ages.

The hours we pass with happy prospects in view are more pleasing than those crowned with fruition. In the first instance we cook the dish to our own appetite; in the latter nature cooks it for us.

Weak arguments are often thrust before my path; but although they are most unsubstantial, it is not easy to destroy them. There is not a more difficult feat known than to cut through a cushion with a sword.

Architecture is the art which so disposes and adorns the edifices raised by man, for whatsoever uses, that the sight of them may contribute to his mental health, power and pleasure.

We must never throw away a bushel of truth because it happens to contain a few grains of chaff; on the contrary, we may sometimes profitably receive a bushel of chaff for the few grains of truth it may contain.

Abuse is not so dangerous when there is no vehicle of wit or delicacy, no subtle conveyance. The difference between coarse and refined abuse is as the difference between being bruised by a club and wounded by a poisoned arrow.

Some people have a foolish way of not minding or pretending not to mind, what they eat. For my part I mind very studiously; for I look upon it, that he who does not mind this, will hardly mind anything else.

There are two things that grow stronger in the breast of man, in proportion as he advances in years: the love of country and religion. Let them be ever so much forgotten in youth, they sooner or later present themselves to us arrayed in all their charms, and excite in the recess of our hearts an attachment justly due to their beauty.

What waste, what misery, what bankruptcy, come from all this ambition to dazzle others with the glare of apparent worldly success, we need not describe. The mischievous results show themselves a thousand ways—in the rank fronds committed by men who dare to be dishonest, but do not dare to seem poor; and in the desperate dashes at fortune, in which the city is not so much for those who fail, as for the hundreds of innocent families who are so often involved in their ruin.

Riches may enable us to confer favors, but to confer them with propriety and with grace requires a something that riches cannot give; even trifles may be so bestowed as to cease to be trifles. The citizens of Megara offered the freedom of their city to Alexander; such an offer excited a smile in the countenance of him who had conquered the world; but he received this tribute of their respect with complacency on being informed that they had never offered it to any but to Hercules and himself.

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