

# CORVALLIS GAZETTE



VOL. XLII.

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1904.

No. 22.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY BY THE GAZETTE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

O. A. DEARING, EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Roseburg Plaindealer says the Democrats of Oregon are getting ready for the funeral; they have commenced to organize hearse clubs.

The Smoot case is being considered in the U. S. Senate, and the different phases of the Mormon superstition are being threshed over very vigorously by different senators. After it is all decided what will it all amount to? The superstition that is fashionable becomes the religion of today; the religion that is unfashionable becomes the superstition. The old earth will keep on revolving whether Smoot goes out or stays in.

Here is a good lesson for our temperance friends. It is said that \$625,000,000 were spent in Germany last year for alcoholic liquor. This is an average of \$35 per head for persons over 15 years of age. With this as a basis, our orators who are to orate next month at Pailomath can draw horrible examples enough to drown out all the arguments of their opponents. This does not include beer, and if reports are true, some beer is also consumed in Germany.

They had a prize fight over in Jefferson last week, which some of the school boys attended, and on Saturday the authorities suspended a number of the larger boys. Its no punishment to a boy to keep him out of school. An application of birch, well laid on, would have been much more effective. Until a pupil is old enough to behave properly he is old enough to be punished, and we think it is not too late to call these boys back and start them again on the right track by means of an application of the good old "oil of hickory." We ought to know; we went to school ourselves when a schoolmaster's standard of usefulness was the strength of his good right arm.

The revolution in New York State is over, and Senator Thomas C. Platt is laid on the shelf, never more to be resurrected. He declares himself too old and too tired to fight longer, and retires as gracefully as possible under the circumstances. The new boss of the Republican party in New York is Governor Benjamin B. Odell, Jr. For over a generation Platt has been the undisputed leader of the party in his state. Deserted by friends whom he had supported for years, he found it necessary to yield the reins of leadership to the masterful grip of Odell, who is now in absolute control.

It is now up to Odell to carry the State for Republicans in the November election. A victory will put him in the front rank of Republican leaders, a defeat will crush him and humiliate him beyond measure. The rule of Platt has been, it is claimed, too lenient for the last few years, and he has left too much of the detail work of the campaigns to his lieutenants, to the detriment of the party's interests. This must be stopped, and Odell is the man to make the change. It is conceded that many changes will be made in the present officers. Chauncey Depew will not be re-elected. Changes in the Chairmanship of state and county committees will be made at once. Active work for the campaign will be inaugurated, and it is the Governor's prediction that with good honest well directed work New York's 39 electoral votes will be safe for Theodore Roosevelt in November. So mote it be.

Kings Valley is no longer to carry off the honors in developing new use for overdone eggs, she has a rival in Albany, which has lately worked off a good stock of these articles in a manner very commendable. There appears in an Albany paper of recent issue says the Telegram a story which recounts the rotten-egging of a masher by the brother and friend of a young woman who had been made the victim of the insulting attentions of one of these brainless excrescences. The young lady involved took the proper course. An improper proposal followed by an arrangement for a meeting at 9 o'clock on the Albany steel bridge, and in the interim there was organized, on the report of the young woman, a party of male friends, headed by the brother, who, armed with eggs of last year's vintage, made things interesting for the vulgarian when he appeared upon the scene. For a few minutes the masher led in a sprinting match, in which the work of the stern chasers was effective to the most satisfactory degree. If there is any being traveling about in the guise of a full-grown man whose presence the world could agreeably dispense with, it is this pin-headed bundle of good clothes that we know as the "masher." Like other inexpressible evils, however, his presence has to be tolerated, but this Albany young woman and the youthful male friends have shown us how he may be made to figure in the creation of a market for eggs that have passed their usefulness in other directions.

Authentic war news, under the circumstances, is next to impossible. Let us remember that Japan is fighting for her very existence against a hugely disproportionate foe, and she must equalize matters by taking every advantage and by striking first blows as so many surprises. Even a line might contain a hint that would put the enemy on guard. This is the correct way of looking at it. People who cannot wait for legitimate news can take the Yellow journals and get full particulars of Japanese victories every day, with a Russian victory every Sunday as a sort of offset, and then have the same contradicted the next week. The little brown men are keeping busy, and doing the work they started to do, and when any of this work is completed we are going to hear the news. Let them alone and keep our smarties of the press from giving away the secrets of their movements, or we may hear that a few of them have been shortened by a head, and we be forced to acknowledge that it served them right.

### OUR BRAINY CONTEMPORARIES.

In the Spanish war the impression gained that torpedo boats were a failure in respect of the great expectations that had existed with reference to their powers and place in nautical warfare. The torpedo boats of Japan are certainly doing their part. As in all things else, it depends a bit upon whom the enterprise is in charge.—Albany Herald.

More significant than all else is the fact that the United States has commenced this new century with over 17,000,000 children in school, over 15,000,000 of these in the public schools—children of the common people, of free, law-abiding, self respecting, people, looking up to no superiors, and masters of their own lives; children well fed, well housed; well nourished, looking forward with clear bright eyes through the open pathways of boundless opportunity in this free republic, where the highest rewards are to be won by individual enterprise and where not wealth, nor birth, nor social position, but the personal qualities of the man himself, whether he be rich or poor, are the sole title to the highest distinction and the greatest power.—Eugene Guard.

The Farm Journal's recommendation to its readers to use a strong solution of caustic soda as a remedy for San Jose scale, is meeting with strong protests from intelligent horticulturists and entomologists all over the country. Prof. A. B. Cordley, of the Oregon Experiment Station, warned the readers of this paper in our last issue. In this issue we republish a letter to the Country Gentleman by one of its subscribers who used the soda spray to the great injury of his trees. Fruit growers in Oregon and Washington learned ten years ago that strong solutions of potash or soda seriously damage trees. The safe plan everywhere is to stick to the time-tested and reliable lime, sulphur and salt mixture, or its equivalent, the lime, sulphur and blue vitrol mixture, in fighting the San Jose scale.—Oregon Agriculturist.

The manufacturing druggists of the United States are now making efforts to secure the passage of a law by congress which will remove the tax from alcohol which has been so treated that it cannot be used for drinking purposes. In Germany the use of alcohol for heat, light and power, has increased wonderfully within a few years, and has made a great market for potatoes, the leading article from which it is made in that country. The manufacturing druggists are therefore asking the farmers to co-operate with them in securing the proposed change in our laws. It appears certain that the changes would be to the advantage of the farmer. Alcohol is made from farm products such as grain, potatoes, refuse fruit, etc. The extensive use of alcohol for manufacturing purposes, heat, power, etc., would mean increased demand for agricultural products. On the other hand a large supply of cheap alcohol for use in power engines of the gasoline type would put a check upon the exactions of the Standard Oil trust.—Rural Northwest.

Power is always dangerous, always despotic, and power always exists where concentrated property rights exist. And enormous wealth can only exist where some open or concealed monopoly exists. These are the real problems for the children of the future. And the struggle for office between such men as Hill and Corman on the one side, and Hanna and Platt on the other, is of no more real interest to the mass of the people than the struggle between the houses of York and Lancaster in the Wars of the Roses. It is a mere strategic, scheming cowardly battle for vote and office, not the earnest battle for principle. I have no respect for the politician who at any time or under any circumstances cries, "Hush! Do not scare away that vote!" The principles of politics is as sacred as the principles of religion, and there is no time when they ought not to be spoken from the housetop. Better a thousand defeats in a steady battle for principle than one victory where the principle is betrayed and the votes are gotten by barter and deception.—C. E. S. Wood in the Pacific Monthly for March.

## VLADIVOSTOK Blockaded!

Fleet shells the City.

### Little Damage!

This news is from Russian sources and can be taken with the usual grain of salt.

A fleet of five Japanese battleships and two cruisers appeared off Vladivostok at 1:25 Sunday afternoon and bombarded the town and shore batteries for 55 minutes.

The fleet approached from the direction of Askold Island, at the east entrance of Ussuri Bay, and about 32 miles southeast of Vladivostok. Entering Ussuri Bay, the enemy formed a line of battle, but did not approach to a closer range than a mile and one-third. They directed their fire against the shore batteries and the town, but no damage resulted, as most of their 200 lyddite shells failed to burst.

The Russian batteries, commanded by General Vernotez and Artamonoff did not reply, awaiting a closer approach of the enemy.

The Japanese fire ceased at 2:20 p. m. and the enemy retired in the direction of Askold Island. Simultaneously two torpedo-boat destroyers appeared near Askold Island, and two more near Cape Maidel. The Japanese ships were covered with ice.

The attack resulted in no loss to the Russians, but cost the Japanese 200,000 rubles (\$100,000) in ammunition. Most of the projectiles were six and 12-inch shells.

The population of Vladivostok was warned this morning of the presence on the horizon of a hostile fleet and the prospect of attack during the day, but it remained tranquil.

### Troops Soon to Meet

Advices from Vladivostok say that the 25,000 Japanese troops who landed at Plaksin (on the eastern coast of northern Corea) are advancing towards Musan (128 miles from Gensan) with the intention of ultimately reaching Hunchun (on the left bank of the Tumen River about 100 miles west of Vladivostok) and threatening the Russian flank.

In order to checkmate this move the Russian outpost 1500 strong, which recently crossed the Tumen, is advancing towards Koyroyong, on the Tumen River, a walled city commanding the trails along which the Japanese must pass.

The naval mobilization foreshadowed in these dispatches was partially decided upon today. Three eastern provinces of European Russia, Vyatka, Perm and Ufa, are included in the plan, the purpose stated being the strengthening of the crews of the Pacific squadron.

## Spring Announcement

### WASH GOODS

New Percales and Calicos  
New Gingham and Chambrays  
New Challies and Cotton Suitings  
New White Waistings

### New Dress Skirts and Shirt Waists

### WOOL DRESS GOODS

New Mixed Suitings  
New Scotch Weaves  
New Etamine and Voiles  
New Mohairs, Plain and Figured  
New Black Dress Goods

### NOVELTIES

New Buttons  
New Waist Sets  
New Trimmings  
New Ornaments  
New Stock Collars  
New Laces  
New Ribbons

### New Hosiery and Underwear

### DOMESTICS

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New Muslins and Sheetings  
New Towels and Towling  
New Curtains and Scrims

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