

# The Daily Astorian

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## A GENUINE BULL-FIGHT.

The Cowboys Testing the Mettle of Their Herds.

There had been considerable chaffing, variegated with especially lurid illustrations of the possibilities of profanity, on the merits of the two bulls, and for several nights the smoke hung low over the camp fires, as if listening, too awe-stricken to rise, to the various stories of their prowess in former struggles. Murchison's men were to the westward of the trail, but they came over to Zingman's round-up, two miles to the east, every evening to talk over their bull, and speculate on the chances if Zingman's men felt the spirit of ownership in anything they want to pit against him. But Zingman's people hesitated. They had a bull, Texas, which had killed everything he had tackled, and they thought it an unfair advantage to turn him loose against so manifestly an inferior animal as Murchison's "Wild Bill," though they were willing to risk money on any other animal they were willing to risk money on.

This position broke up the poker game, and gave rise to some pronounced polemics. If wind could have settled the dispute it would have been decided in favor of both sides. Relying on the anecdotes related of each, one would suppose that a contest between them could only result in the termination of time. Murchison's men were a unit in the statement that on one occasion "Wild Bill" had rushed his adversary down, and, unable to stop his headway, had gone home with a Baptist church on his horns. Zingman's people conceded the possibility of this, but maintained and pressed conclusively by the testimony of each other that "Texas" had on one occasion picked up an earthquake on his horns and held it there until it agreed never to visit that section again if he would let it go. On this state of facts it was obvious that nothing but a meeting could definitely determine the superiority, and the duel was arranged for Sunday morning. The fight was to come off on neutral ground, midway between the two herds. Every cowboy was to have his weapons behind him, a judicious precaution, since the cowboy pistol has a supernatural method of discharging itself, without reference to material causes. Each side was to remain behind its own bull, and neither to approach the fracas closer than 300 yards, the winners to take all the money to be found on the persons or in the possession of the losers.

Bright and early Sunday morning, the grass still shining in the dew, and the sun coming over the horizon, the two bulls were out of their respective herds and driven to the battle ground. A man who has never seen a Texas bull doesn't know how much fight can be tied up in one hide. Strong and wiry, not too heavy in the flank, short of horn and quick in action, he was built to fight, and contrived to discharge his mission without involving himself in the slightest unnecessary complication. Lashed to madness by the whips of the cowboys laid on mercilessly to arouse their rage, the two bulls came in sight of each other, and the backers withdrew. By nature a Texas bull is all the time as mad as he can get, and will see another bull, then the thermometer of his wrath goes to boiling point.

As they spied each other their heads went down and their tails up. They approached slowly and with a sinuous motion, pawing the ground and moaning. "Texas" appeared a little larger of the two, and he was as fully as active as his foe. A hundred paces apart they fairly sprang from the earth, and the bellows and the crash of meeting mingled together as the ground trembled beneath them. "Texas" had the best of it, for "Wild Bill" recoiled to his haunches, but the game little bull recovered first, and in the next attack gored "Texas" under the head, nearly reaching his throat. The onslaught was so unexpected that "Texas" still dazed by the first shock, failed to counter on his adversary. But the next rush found him prepared, and he received his enemy full on the forehead, driving him again to his haunches. Before "Bill" could rally "Texas" had raised the flesh off his right forehead bone.

The smell of his own blood crazed the little bull, and his next dash was not straight. He struck Texas obliquely, throwing up the head of the latter, and then turning, before he had passed, he ripped up the big bull's off fore-leg, catching him behind the shoulder and tearing out the muscles, cords and tendons. Though badly lamed, Texas was not vanquished. Once more he bore the little bull down, but Bill was the least injured of the two, and, struggling to his feet, he buried a horn in the old wound. It is doubtful if he knew what damage he had done, for he was half blind with his adversary's blood. Texas awaited the next rush where he stood, nor was he kept in suspense. Bill was at it in a moment, but the big bull, sadly hurt, winded and tired, held his head high, and Bill caught him between the fore-legs, ripping him to the neck before he tore away.

Then "Texas" turned, and a shout from his backers announced his defeat. With a yell of victory and derision Murchison's men dashed down and drove their bull back to the herd. Three hours later the two herds were in motion again, but Murchison's people were enriched to the extent of all cash wherewith Zingman's men had been seized at the time the duel began.

Staggering slowly and painfully down the track "Texas" limped while on his way back to the ranch from which he came. He couldn't go back to his herd, for the cows will gore a defeated bull to death. There was no effort to bind up his wounds; they didn't even offer to lead him to water. And so alone he wandered away, beaten, disgraced and grievously wounded, and in a little while he lay to rest in the dust that settled along the prairie.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, May 21.

The house resumed consideration of the Indiana election case of English vs. Peelle.

Blackburn supported the claims of contestee. After considerable debate Peelle addressed the house in his own behalf, and English's claims were advocated by Hurd, Springer, Henley and Converse.

Hart then offered as a substitute for the majority resolution the resolution of the minority, confirming the right of Peelle to the seat. During progress of the vote there was a great deal of interest manifested. English sat at his desk in the first row, and kept tally. Looking over his shoulder stood his father, and a number of members, watching each vote intently.

At the conclusion, when it was evident the resolution was agreed to, Springer, who had voted in the negative, changed his vote to the affirmative, for the purpose of moving a re-consideration. The vote was then announced—yeas 121, nays 117.

Springer immediately moved a re-consideration, and Hart moved to lay that motion on the table, pending which Converse moved to adjourn, and the motion was carried—yeas 113, nays 118, amid applause on the Democratic side.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 21.

A number of petitions were presented and referred, protesting against any governmental assumption of telegraph service. Harrison presented a counter petition, setting forth that the Western Union Company's employees are engaged in getting signatures to telegrams in opposition to the postal telegraph.

The resolution calling on the president for information concerning the appointment of commissioners to examine certain sections of the Northern Pacific railroad was referred to the judiciary committee—yeas 29, nays 23.

The following bills were passed: For the erection of a public building at Vicksburg, \$100,000; Chattanooga, \$100,000; Opanona, La., \$50,000; Portland, Oregon, \$250,000; Sacramento, \$100,000; Dayton, Ohio, \$150,000; Springfield, Ohio, \$100,000. The above sums include the cost of sites and buildings.

The Utah bill was laid aside, and the bill establishing a bureau of labor statistics was taken up.

Pending action, unanimous consent was given for a number of bills for bridges upon passage, and they passed, including one authorizing the Bellingham Bay Railroad and Navigation Company to build bridges in the territory of Washington.

After an executive session the senate adjourned.

The Reporter's Shield.

"Much virtue in 'It,' quoth Touchstone. Had the jester lived till now he would have found more virtue in 'Alleged.' The word is the reporter's shield. He goes forth to the hunt armed with it. It is as much a part of his equipment as his pen, and quite as essential. Without it he is timid. Behind it he is valiant. Were the word suddenly blotted out of the vocabulary, a revolution in the character of journalism would follow; the spirit of enterprise which now pervades the rank and file of the profession would be woefully embarrassed; the public would suffer greatly for want of information; facts would not be known until they were accomplished.

"Alleged" is a special product of the nineteenth century and must take high position along with other important inventions of the era.

In the olden times a statement either embraced a truth or a lie. These were the grand classifications. Your "Alleged" strikes a medial line, and we now have three general truths, lies and allegations. The newspaper that tells a lie makes fees for the sheriff; but the newspaper that finds a lie in circulation and reports it, under the protection of "alleged," escapes censure and assault. The word is often made to serve scandalous purposes, but all blessings are liable to abuse; it has a most useful employment, and it must not be condemned for its sins without its virtues be first reckoned.

Calling On The Lord.

Our county is in debt some \$45,000, and our scrip is selling at a big discount, and for God's sake let us look about us and see where we are before we get in any deeper.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

A German philosopher says that "if man is the final product of Nature—the best, highest and most beautiful she can evolve—then Nature herself is a blunder." But man is not the best and most beautiful product she can evolve or has evolved. Did the German philosopher never see an American woman?

NO, SIR.

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