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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1899.

Let the Independent get in and roar.—Argus. The Independent has roared. Not a great volume of sound to be sure, but a roar.

Admiral Dewey's favorite toast is: "The president of the United States, Wm. McKinley. May he be re-elected." Can the Oregonian drink with Dewey?—Unionist Gazette.

Since the recent cuts made in passenger rates it is cheaper for Hillsboro people to go to Seaside than to Newport. The round trip fare by boat or rail from Portland to Astoria is only \$1.80 and the fare one way is \$1.20.

An irreverent man met a neighbor here about last week who is a devout christian and an exemplary church member. The first thought to go by his neighbor and said to him: "Now that Bob Ingersoll is dead, where do you think he is?" "I don't know; I am not his judge," was the quiet answer.

At a meeting of the State Press Association held on the cars coming from Astoria July 8th it was decided to hold the annual meeting on Thursday August 17th in the city of Portland commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. The business to be transacted is receiving and adopting reports and electing officers. It is not probable that any excursions will be taken and that all the business will be done in one day. The meeting will be held in the chamber of commerce on the 5th floor.

The Oregonian is not politically wise. It now looks like the issue at the next campaign will be free silver coinage and anti expansion for the democrats and sound money and expansion for the republicans. There will be no third party tho the woods will be left. Notwithstanding these facts the Oregonian had a lot of paragraphs in last week's issue that will neutralize much of its work next year when it comes to support the candidate standing on the sound money and expansion platform for it is not supposable that it will take to the woods.

The general committee having in hand the reception and entertainment of the N. E. A. completed its work last Wednesday evening and adjourned sine die. The committee received for entertaining the editors and for the celebration of July 4th the sum of \$7575.00. Of this sum \$3976.59 was disbursed for the entertainment of the association and \$3598.41 was used for the celebration of Independence day. There was a balance of \$44.36 remaining after all the bill were paid. This was turned into the treasury of the City Press Club of Portland for entertaining the East Canadian editors who are expected in Portland about the 19th of this month.

The Astorian declares that when the river channel from Astoria to Portland deepened to 35 feet the cost of taking a cargo of wheat from Portland to the sea would not be rubbed out. What Astoria people want is that the railroads deliver wheat in Astoria for the same money that they lay it down for at Seattle. They claim that they can afford to do it, for having it on the cars at Portland, they can in four hours put it into Astoria and have as much profit as the N. P. has after pulling over the Cascade mountains. The Astoria people do not claim that shippers can unload the cars at Portland and then reload them and take them to Astoria for nothing. It is that very unloading and loading again that takes the velvet away from our farmers. Give us that loading fee and we can afford to have salt on our potatoes.

Ex-Secretary of War Alger's statement of who selected the officers of the new army of 1898, published in another place contains nothing but what every well-informed man knew before, but it puts the case in clear statement which can be understood by all and for that it is valuable. In 1898 when the bill authorizing the enlistment of volunteers was before congress it was proposed that state lines be disregarded just as they have been this year in recruiting the 10,000 now being enlisted. In that event the president would have appointed the officers. This met active opposition. It was demanded that the states turn over to the general government their quotas fully officered and that was the way it was done. Now if there was any mistake made in putting green officers in the field, congress is responsible and not the president. Mr. Alger in his report shows that the old army was called upon to furnish trained officers as long as they lasted. After that untrained men had to be taken. In Oregon there were one or two West Pointers that wanted to go into the Second Oregon but they were not in the national guard, wherefore they were left.

YELLOW JACK.

If no other reward comes to the United States than the sanitation of Cuba the expense of the Spanish war will be discharged. Heretofore Havana has been scourged with yellow fever and at Santiago no man could call his life his own at this season of the year. Now Havana is free from the scourge and Santiago has but a few cases. The United States had but one case till last week and that one in June from which no one else suffered. The contagion in that instance was imported in a lock of hair contained in a letter mailed in Cuba to a friend in New Orleans. Last week the malady broke out in the Soldiers Home in Virginia, and made great headway before it was recognized. The disease was carried to the Home in the clothing of an old soldier who came from Santiago. It is seen therefore that with ordinary care yellow fever can be controlled, and there is no doubt but that in a few seasons the intelligent administration of the Americans will stamp it out in Cuba itself. The American boards of health are able to close the ordinary paths for the entrance of yellow fever, but the unusual ways have not been carefully guarded this summer.

But it is the dreaded quarantine that paralyzes the south in the late summer. Quarantine is the weapon with which to fight yellow jack, but when a wrong use is made of the power injury comes so that now the people of the south are coming to look upon a quarantine as more of a calamity than the fever itself. The gulf states make an appropriation each year for quarantine expenses and the doctors consider it a crime to turn any part of this money back into the treasury, hence they seek occasion to establish a quarantine each year. During its existence the industries of the territory effected are suspended. There is no communication except by telegraph or telephone. Should members of a family be separated when the quarantine is established they cannot be united till it is raised. Mrs. Henry of Jackson Mississippi relates that last summer she was separated from her children for six weeks. During that time her husband had to suspend the publication of his paper, and the only way he could hear from her was by wire. If the policy of Cuba shall abate this deadly disease the United States and especially the gulf states will have cause for thanksgiving.

ALGER AND THE ARMY.

One of the last official acts of Secretary Alger, who relinquished his portfolio last Tuesday was to prepare a statement covering several matters regarding the conduct of the war which have been the subject of criticism in the public press, particularly with reference to the appointment of staff officers in the volunteer army. The statement follows:

"I am glad to make the following statements on account of the many criticisms which have been made by the public press especially on account of a recent article which appeared in the London Times containing assertions which have no foundation in truth. At the commencement of the war with Spain and for several years prior to that time the regular army consisted of only 25,000 men, with the minimum number of officers prescribed by law. The situation may be partially appreciated when it is remembered that within 60 days from the declaration of war the strength of the army was increased to 275,000, and everything for this great force, including clothing, tents, transportation, medical supplies, camp equipment and all that pertains to equipping an army for service had to be manufactured, transported and distributed for us.

"From the statement referred to the public might be led to believe that the volunteer army was officered by men selected through political influence with the secretary of war by special favor, and without any regard to fitness for the duties they were to perform. As is well known, the volunteer force, with the exception of three regiments, of engineers three cavalry regiments and 10 mounted infantry regiments was made up of regiments from the various states the officers of which were all appointed exclusively by the governor of the respective states from which the regiments came, and any officer found unfit for service and discharged was replaced by another in the same manner. The president had no voice nor control in the matter.

"The returns of the volunteer army show that in August, 1898, there were 207,244 enlisted men and 8785 officers in those regiments. This with the regular army recruited up to the war strength made an aggregate force of about 265,000 officers and men. The volunteer officers appointed by the president number, all told, 1032. Of this number, 241 from the regular army and 591 from civil life. The scarcity of regimental officers in the regular service, owing to appointments in the volunteers, special recruiting and mustering details had so reduced their number that to have taken a larger number for service with the volunteers would have seriously impaired the efficiency of the regular regiments.

"For a little over 1000 appointments made by the president, the number of applications was over 25,000 and each application was accompanied by a certificate of his ability, and in most instances the military service either in the regular army or state organization, and not infrequently in both. These

certificates showed that each one was well qualified for the position he sought, and to which he was appointed as could be possible for men in civil life in this country. Of the number appointed there were for instance, 26 major-generals of which 19 were taken from the regular army and the seven from civil life. Of these seven all but one were graduates of West Point military academy, and all had distinguished themselves in command during the civil war. Of the brigadier general, there were 102 appointed, 66 from the regular army and 36 from civil life. Those from civil life had all seen service during the civil war or on our Western frontier, and all had proven themselves competent to command.

"It has been stated and repeated many times that the secretary of war made these appointments, when the truth is that very few were made upon his recommendation, although he caused the entire list, with the recommendations, to be compiled and placed before the president for his selection. I would be only too glad to have had the honor to have made these appointments. No better no more loyal or more patriotic set of men, as a whole ever served their country and their appointments were a credit, not only to the appointing powers, but to the country they served. There were exceptions, but they could not have been foreseen. In every walk of life men are found who cannot carry out satisfactorily the work they have undertaken.

"There were three regiments of cavalry the officers of which were appointed by the secretary of war. Colonel Leonard Wood now a brigadier-general and commanding the departments of Santiago and Puerto Principe, was one of these Colonel Griggsby and Colonel Torrey, both good officers, were the other two. There were three regiments of engineers, the colonels of which were all graduates of the military academy, and not only the officers, but the enlisted men, were selected with a view to their special fitness and in most instances upon the recommendations of the colonels themselves and all proved themselves most efficient.

"There were also 10 regiments of mounted infantry of whose colonels eight were graduates of the military academy who were selected for special fitness to command, and in the short time these regiments were in service developed remarkable proficiency.

"Criticisms as to the amounts and methods of expenditures which could imply the wrong or careless use of money were also made by the London Times. This charge is false. So far as the conduct of the service was concerned no person with any knowledge of the facts can ever show truthfully and not one can ever show that a dollar was misappropriated, stolen or embezzled out of the hundreds of millions of dollars that were expended. The records are an open book and I will be glad to have them rigidly examined, and ask my successor to open those accounts to the country whenever properly called for, in order that the entire truth may be known.

"(Signed) R. A. ALGER
"Secretary of War.
"Washington, D. C., July 31, 1899."

FURTHER PROTECTION.

Now that the hot weather is at hand, when forest fires and fires of other character are likely to be set at any time, the law on that subject may well be printed and read carefully by people going into the mountains, and who live there or run sheep and cattle on the mountain ranges. The law reads:

Section 1. If any person shall maliciously with intent to injure any other person, kindle a fire on his own land or on the land of any other person, and means of such, fire the buildings, fences, crops, or other personal property or wooded timberlands of any other person he shall be convicted or injured, he shall on conviction be punished by a fine of not less than \$20, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than three months nor more than twelve months, according to the aggravation of the offense.

Sec. 2. If any person shall, without malice kindle any fire in any field, pasture, enclosure, forest, prairie or timber land not his own, without the consent of the owner, and the same shall spread and do damage to any buildings, fences, crops, cordwood, bark, or other personal property not his own or to any wood or timber land not his own, he shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 and costs, according to the aggravation of the offense and shall stand committed until the fine and costs are paid.

Sec. 3. Any person who shall enter upon the land of another person for the purpose of hunting or fishing and shall without the consent of the owner of said lands kindle any fire thereon shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100; and if such fire be kindled maliciously and with intent to injure any other person such offender shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$20 nor more than \$250 or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than three months nor more than twelve months.

Sec. 4. Any person or persons who shall willfully set fire to any wooded country or forest belonging to the state or the United States or to any person or persons shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction before a court of competent jurisdiction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding

\$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year or by both such fine and imprisonment; Provided that nothing herein contained shall apply to any person who in good faith sets back fire to prevent the extension of fire already burning.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR.

The office of Secretary of War has been offered to Hon. Elihu Root of New York city and has been accepted. Mr. Root is a graduate of Hamilton College an experienced lawyer of high rank, who as a politician has been in the republican party since the latter's inauguration, and was the latter's choice for the place. Of his ability, probity and independence of thought and action, a long life lived in the glare of national controversy and in struggles with the ablest men of his profession at the bar of the metropolis testifies. President McKinley selected him because of his eminent legal ability, feeling the necessity of having a man of the kind at the head of the department at a time when so many questions of law are raised by our ventures in Porto Rico Cuba and the Philippines.—Boston Congressionalist.

SUMMONS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE State of Oregon for the county of Washington.
The Alliance Trust Company, Limited a Corporation, Plaintiff