

## PORTLAND PAPER TAKES A TUMBLE

Gets On the Fact That  
Eastern Oregon Is Not  
Enamored With Web-  
foot Metropolis.

We often hear the question asked, "Why is it so much apathy exists in Portland as regards the vast mining interests of eastern Oregon, and why the lack of interest displayed by some of the Portland people?" The people of the eastern section of the state claim that they have cause to complain, and that they receive more courtesy and attention from the papers of Spokane, Seattle and Salt Lake than they do from the papers of Portland. This is a fact. Our local papers annually visit eastern Oregon with the glad hand, promising great circulation and fine half-tone work and the further agreement of constant attention from a mining news standpoint, for which they receive such gratuities as the eastern Oregon contingent see fit to hand out. The result in the past has been no excess in circulation, poor half-tones, on poorer paper, and never a line from New Year until the next grafting season.

The wholesale business men of Portland and the mining machinery houses for years have been accustomed to sit in their offices, while the eastern Oregon trade, having no other place to go, was naturally laid on their counter. This method of doing business has caused the mossbacks to believe that they own it. In the meantime the cities of Seattle, Spokane and Salt Lake have been settled with a class of people who believe in going after what they want, in giving value for money received and expressing thanks for favors rendered. The innovation on Portland's method naturally has won the trade and confidence of eastern Oregon until she knows who her friends are and they get the results in no uncertain quantities. Anything emanating from Portland is given the "icy mit," and it is nothing more than what the metropolis of the state has earned by its "dog in the manger" style. While the Portland machinery and wholesale houses are complaining that they do not receive proper recognition, outside agencies have their representatives constantly in the field doing all in their power to cultivate a friendly alliance.

Until recently the papers of the three cities mentioned have contained more mining information every day than could be counted in a month's issues of Portland's papers.—Pacific Miner.

### Snakes in a Shaft for Years.

Dewitt Vanarsdall, who is in charge of Colonel Jack Chinn's flour spar mine at Salt Spring, was in town Saturday, and though rather late in the season for snake stories, tells us one that is out of the ordinary, says the Harrodsburg Herald. The mine entry is being driven in the side of the cliff about fifty feet below an old shaft, sunk half a century ago by miners in quest of silver. A few

days ago they reached the old shaft, and there a surprise awaited them. The bottom of it was covered with snakes of all kinds—vipers, moccasins, copperheads, blacksnakes and other varieties more or less venomous. The reptiles resented the intrusion, and it was only after a pretty lively fight that they were killed. At first the workmen thought that the snakes had gathered here to hibernate, but an investigation showed that all had fallen into the pit and had no way to escape. Many of them had been there for years, and had fed on the quantities of toads, rabbits and mice that shared their misfortune of falling into the old shaft, but not into congenial company, as did the snakes.

## J.P.MORGAN'S WEEKLY ON NATIONAL POLITICS

"On the whole," says Harper's Weekly, in commenting on the results of the elections throughout the country, "the impression made upon us by a review of the whole contest is that Senator Hanna has been thrust once more into the republican foreground, while on the democratic side events seem to be swiftly preparing for the advent of ex-President Cleveland."

Which would be lovely enough from the Morgan's Weekly point of view. With Hanna on one side and Cleveland on the other, the rapacious, selfish, designing and lawless interests arrayed against President Roosevelt would care nothing which way the cat hopped. They could speed serenely away on their summer vacations and be joyous in the reflection that things were sure to come their way without money and without price. There would be no need to collect a gigantic campaign fund.

Perhaps, though, it is a case of the wish being father to the thought. The signs of the elections do not point to Roosevelt's defeat in the national convention, as Mr. Morgan's Weekly would like to believe. That journal reaches its conclusion by advancing two premises that will not bear examination, namely, that Tammany's victory proves that "New York is lost irrevocably to the republicans," and that the vast republican majority in Ohio is wholly due to the personal popularity of Mr. Hanna. Tammany's recent victory signifies nothing in the broader realm of national politics. It is merely a reminder that the masses of New York voters prefer Tammany's policy of a "wid open town" to Low's policy of restricted immorality and vice.

As for the victory in Ohio, it was more of a tribute to the administration of President Roosevelt than a manifestation of riproaring affection for Senator Hanna. Mr. Hanna understands this thoroughly, as proved by his almost indecent haste to climb into the Roosevelt band wagon last May, when the president, in a public statement sent out from his special train at Walla Walla, intimated that those who were not for him would be regarded as against him, and intimating that if Mr. Hanna wanted a personal issue drawn between them in Ohio he could be accommodated.

Of course Harper's Weekly will be seeing all sorts of signs of Roosevelt's waning strength and Hanna's rising popularity, but its motives are so palpable that it will find it hard to convince the republican party that it is not having visions and dreaming dreams.—Spokesman Review.

## WONDERFUL TONGUE

That Of the Nez Perce  
Indians Has 200,000  
Inflections.

Father Cataldo of Gnozaga college, who is one of the pioneers of the Indian mission work in the northwest, says that the language of the Nez Perce Indians is the most expressive known. They never experience any difficulty in expressing themselves. They are great coiners of words, and if they have not a word handy to make themselves understood they make one.

"The active verb of the Nez Perce language," said Father Cataldo, "has nearly 200,000 contractions. Their grammar has nothing of a similarity to that of any European language. Instead of one inflection, as in Latin, the first person has also four inflections and the third six.

"They have fifty-one tenses. Every tense has twenty-eight inflections, so these multiplied by the tenses, give us 428 inflections.

"Then they have about 150 adverbs that are connected with the verb; for instance, with the verb think, I think, I think a little, I think much, I think going, I think coming, and so on. They differ from the English language in that they are really part of the verb. So these 428 inflections must be multiplied by 150 modified verbs, making 64,200 inflections.

"Besides this, there are about twenty-five participles which are declined with the regular declensions, having fourteen cases in the singular and fourteen in the plural. This gives us 700 inflections in participles. This multiplied by the 150 modified verbs gives 105,000 inflections of the participle, which must be added to the 64,200 inflections of the verb, properly speaking. Thus it will be seen that we have discovered 169,000 inflections. However, we are satisfied that there are enough more to make up the total of 200,000, although this is all we found it necessary to use in our work among the Nez Perce."

Father Cataldo says that the Nez Perce have iron bound rules of grammar. The only other language he has ever heard that shows any similarity is that of the Eskimos. That only resembles it in regard to inflection.—Spokesman-Review.

### Quicksilver in Crook County.

It has been thought for a long time that valuable deposits of quicksilver exist in Crook county, and recent developments in the Lookout Mountain district are more than justifying this belief. From the Crook County Journal we learn that Tacoma capital has become interested in that district, and considerable development work is under way. J. F. Morris, of Prineville, has had an assay made of a specimen from that district which shows 6.62 per cent quicksilver, with a value of nearly \$80 to the ton. When it is remembered that some of the largest quicksilver mines in the country are working less than half of one per cent ore, it will be seen what fortunes lie in the Lookout district, provided ore of the quality assayed by Mr. Morris can be found in any quantities.—Ashwood Prospector.

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