

The Tillamook Headlight.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

That a large number of Boers who advocated war with England were ignorant of the resources of Great Britain is self evident, and coupled with the fact that it was firmly believed that it would be no trouble to drive the English out of the country, it is not surprising they felt thunderstruck when the war went in the opposite direction to what they expected. It is plain to see, however, how misled they were, believing implicitly in what the leaders and agitators told them. Even at this late date those in the field carrying on a guerrilla war are buoyed up with a pack of lies, for this is what some of the Boer prisoners recently captured relate: "Dewet, they say, urged the burghers to hold out until December 10, 'when all the British were going home.' He added that Russia permitted England to fight for a year only; that Queen Victoria was at Cape Town, whither she had fled to escape the Chinese, who had captured half of England; that General Botha had driven the English out of the Transvaal and had taken Pietermaritzburg; that Dewit himself was fighting in Cape Colony, burning farms and that Lord Roberts, wounded by three bullets had been taken to Hellbron to die, and had been buried there beneath the town hall."

If direct primary nominations will in any way put a nail in the coffin of the boss politicians, by all means let the state legislature pass a bill to that effect. We have our doubts, however, whether such a measure will be instrumental in obliterating altogether boss rule in political parties, for they have been so successful in packing primaries and controlling conventions that it will be difficult to enact a law which they will not be able to defeat in some way or other. Should a primary and direct nomination law be passed, the newspapers will then become far more potent in politics than heretofore. But it is a little surprising that the Oregonian should be agitating this question at the same time that it is advocating Mr. H. W. Corbett for senator. Somehow or other it appears inconsistent, for the ex-senator is one of the boss politicians. Why some of the boss politicians of Portland want to load down the republican party of this state with such an enfeebled person as H. W. Corbett for senator, when plenty of able material is available, is a conundrum. We want men of push and energy in the Oregon delegation, not a man with one foot in the grave.

The new fad now with women is walking exercises. May it remain always a fad with women, and men as well, for it is not realized how beautiful walking for recreation is by a large number of citizens. Perhaps a word from a prominent doctor on this subject is not out of place at this time, to wit: "It will be a blessed thing for American women—and American men—when women begin to lead an outdoor life. This fad for long walks cannot be too enthusiastically commended. There is one principle in all athletic work that must not be ignored; however, and that is the principle of cultivation. When one adopts a fad of any kind it is apt to be overdone. The long walks must not be taken immediately. The young woman must train herself to them by gradual, but regular, increases. Walking is one of the finest of exercises. It develops all the parts systematically, is conducive to deep breathing and is excellent for the eyes. It is altogether to be commended." But how little this will be heeded by women of our large cities, who have a tired feeling directly they see a street car going in their direction.

Next summer will witness the entry of two expeditions into the Arctic zone and the goal of each will be the North pole. In one Norway and Italy, the north of Europe and the south, join forces in a great endeavor to plant their flags side by side on the spot so many have sought and so many have died vainly attempting to reach. The duke of the Arbutz, a prince of the house of Savoy, fresh from one successful journey into Arctic desolation, and Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian who next to him has penetrated farthest into the frozen north, will lead, all Italy and Scandinavia cheering them. In the other party an American explorer, comparatively unknown, backed by an American private citizen, will set out resolved that if human daring and skill can accomplish it the stars and stripes shall be unfurled first of all the nations' flags where none has flown yet. It is to be a race to the pole, a friendly race the American says, but none the less determined for that.

The startling news comes from Topeka, Kan., that a number of the leading business men of that city have proclaimed a boycott against several of the churches in revenge for the indiscretion of their ministers in plunging too deeply into the warfare of politics, remarks the New York World. One of the aggrieved boycotters describes the situation by

saying: "In the recent election the Topeka Ministerial union attempted to turn some tricks that would make Croker blush." And yet it was in Topeka recently that Rev. Mr. Sheldon attempted to point the path of reform to the sinful journalism of the age by mangling one of the newspapers for a week—just to show how it ought to be done. In the light of recent revelations it might be a benevolent suggestion to hand the pulpits of Topeka over to the editors of the newspapers.

We are sorry to see that the Isthmian Commission is divided as to the route. This may have a tendency to delay the project, for it will play into the hands of those who oppose the canal. It is stated that the commission will make a report announcing the respective advantages of the Nicaragua and Panama routes, but not offering any suggestion about which should be chosen. It is understood that some members of the Commission were in favor of presenting a report in favor of the Nicaragua route, but the others were as strongly in favor of Panama, and that the result is a compromise. The Isthmian commission has never been of one mind regarding routes, even in Nicaragua. Hardly a route has been mentioned that has not been open to some objections, and the members of the Commission have never been strongly in favor of any of them.

The Boers who never smelt powder and who did all their fighting with the jaw bone, have been having a gay old time in France receiving ex-President Kruger and getting the Frenchmen excited. Yet in the face of what has transpired, they declare that the Boers will never cease fighting until they win, and even the ex-president pretends to hold the whip hand over Europe by threatening to publish the secrets of the war if they do not intervene. It may be interesting reading, and it may divulge some secret understanding that the Boers were to receive assistance from some of the powers hostile to England. One would think to read Kruger's speeches he had the nations of the world by the horns and was going to make it warm for the nation which did not come to his assistance and retake the Transvaal and make him again the autocratic potentate.

The unfounded story in circulation about the American government procuring secrets from the French War office has drawn attention to the fact that several European governments are constantly represented in this country by secret agents commissioned to keep them posted on everything relating to our military and naval armament as well as to transmit whatever secret information they can secure about our guns, ammunition and other equipment. In no other country in the world is such freedom granted as here for the inspection of our navy yards, coast defenses and arms factories. The American government has few, if any, real military or naval secrets, because official information is public information. European governments ought not to feel compelled to spend much money for secret service in this country.

The agitation for a 40 foot channel for the Columbia river is a move in the right direction, and we sincerely trust it will not be long before that is accomplished. The improvement of the Columbia bar and river benefits a large section of Oregon, and it is gratifying to notice what a large amount of commerce is carried on now compared to 10 years ago on account of the improvements already made. To increase this bar and river must have no more obstructions to shipping. Fortunately for Portland, when that city had very little shipping, an engineer's report did not say that the commerce of the port did not justify the expenditure of money for improvements. Yet that is what was said of Tillamook bar, consequently this county's commerce has not been able to keep pace with the other counties of the state.

If congress can be induced to appropriate the necessary money the post office department contemplates more than doubling the number of free rural mail delivery routes during the coming year. The success of the plan from a postal standpoint is assured by the experience of the past year. The rural delivery goes a long way toward solving the problem of making farm life more attractive by rendering it less isolated. If the trend of population from the country to the city is to be checked or prevented it must be by making farming not only profitable, but pleasurable. The problem of profit has been solved in the Northwest at least and the other problem is in a fair way of solution.

If something is not done to relieve the crisis in China we are afraid that the allied army remaining on Chinese territory will lead to fresh complications. It looks, to use a common sense argument, that if an agreement is ever to be reached the army should be withdrawn and diplomats of the respective countries should be left to arrange terms of peace and the indemnity China is to pay each country. But the nations that want to slice up that country are altogether too jealous of one another, and the sooner they get scrapping among themselves sooner will the Chinese question be settled, for this is what some people are looking for.

Before you can get people to talk about you, Printers' Ink says you must do some talking yourself—in the columns of a good newspaper. If a primary and direct nominations bill should pass the state legislature how the crafty politicians will toady to editors for complimentary "puffs" and "write-ups." We are inclined to think if the bill is passed the editors of Oregon will put many of the Oregon political bosses to sleep the next few years, and it will be quite proper to get some of these fossilized bosses out of way, anyway.

The moral crusade against vice in the east continues, and the crusaders appear determined to route out evil if possible. No doubt, they are actuated by good motives, and that they deserve credit for what they are doing. Apart from this, if vice is to be rooted out, it must be done in a continual, aggressive manner, and any attempt to moralize the world on the hot and cold process will never accomplish the good it otherwise would. Who is it that is looking for notoriety in this crusade fad?

Dr. Parkhurst is planning an ideal newspaper. That sounds well, but a great deal depends upon what he considers ideal. If it is a clean paper that gets the news he can find a large number in existence. If, however, it is a publication to exploit fads in the way of reforms and all that sort of thing, he would better interest at least half a dozen big capitalists in it before he begins its publication. In no other way can he be assured that it will last much over thirty days.

According to the census returns the Indian population of the United States is about 267,900, and experts say that there are probably as many or nearly as many Indians on the continent now as there were when it was discovered. As the Indians are slowly increasing in number and, according to Prof. Starr, the rest of us are becoming Indians, the next adventurer who discovers America will find the red men very numerous.

London underground railroad is to be converted from a steam to an electric system at a cost of \$25,000,000. The management of the road has called for bids for this great electrical engineering contract from the electrical companies of all nations. German, French and American firms are bidding in competition with British concerns. And the American firms are quite hopeful of securing this large order.

If the surplus falls below that of the last fiscal year there will be room for tax reduction, and the first taxes to go should be the stamps upon checks, deeds, mortgages, bills of lading and telegrams. These are the taxes that most directly affect the people and which cause the greatest inconvenience.

Both President McKinley and Mr. Bryan, it is stated, took off their hats when they entered their respective voting places. This was a neat and appropriate tribute to the dignity of the duty they were about to perform. It would have puzzled some men, however, to have carried a hat and ballot, too, at the same time.

Money is being subscribed, chiefly in Boston, Mass., to test in the supreme court of the United States the constitutionality of the election laws in Louisiana and North Carolina, which practically disfranchise the negroes of the two states. The total expense is expected to be about \$5,000.

Another ideal newspaper is to be started with the object of reforming mankind and bringing about the millennium. The fate of the last one ought to serve as a warning, but in the bright lexicon of the ideal there are no such words as "horrible example."

President McKinley has his trousers freshly pressed and creased every morning. The Prince of Wales has ceased to wear his trousers creased, thus shattering the campaign charge of a secret alliance between the United States and Great Britain.

It is reported that the river and harbor committee will only make appropriations for improvements of a public and not of a private character. That is good news for Tillamook, for the improvement of Tillamook bar is of a strictly public nature.

Diek Croker has arrived in England and now Dave Hill is doing his best to dethrone him in Tammany Hall. If Croker will remain in England permanently this country would strive manfully to respect his memory.

Mrs. Stanford and Mr. Rockefeller are harboring an idea that those who pay the collegiate fiddler have a right to select the music that is to be played.

A Cleveland woman has been granted a divorce as the outgrowth of her husband wearing a shirt waist in public places last summer.

The decision of a Virginia judge that the wife is the head of the house will not disturb the statu quo in many households.

The late Henry Villard rose from a reporter to a great financier by getting out of the newspaper business early in life.

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