

THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN

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With a big fruit crop, and abundant production all along the line of diversified farming, and with the new people headed this way, 1900 ought to be a big and good year for Oregon.

Uncle Sam is still paying the expense of sending Spanish prisoners home from Manila. This provision of the peace treaty was the only shrewd thing Spain did during the whole war.

W. J. Bryan will not abandon his silver theories. He is out with a letter protesting that he is still chasing this beautiful rainbow. He will not abandon it; so his former supporters are fast abandoning him.

About thirty men are working in and from the Statesman building. There will be a material increase in both the inside and outside forces, between the first of January and the last week in February.

There is a fair assurance that the Corvallis & Eastern railroad will be pushed further East during the coming spring and summer—at least far enough to connect with a good wagon road from Prineville. This arrangement would turn a vast amount of profitable trade this way.

By a strange accidental coincidence the lower house of congress on December 28th passed the gold standard bill and then adjourned out of respect for the memory of Richard P. Bland. He was an honest man, but the financial theories he fought for have gone down forever.

Within a comparatively short time the English have built in Africa 4350 miles of railway in the southern part of the continent, 450 miles in the Sudan, 300 miles of the Uganda line, 35 miles in Guinea, and 42 miles in Lagos. Several longlines are under construction. Her commercial interests demand that England must see the Boer problem through what it may.

The arrangement with the Twice-a-week Statesman and the Weekly Oregonian, whereby we give the three papers a week for the price of the Oregonian, or \$1.50 a year, will be continued after the first of the year. This arrangement has attracted a great deal of attention throughout the state, and mail orders have been nearly as numerous as the orders made to our rustlers in the field.

The department of agriculture has estimated the wheat crop of the country in the present year at 547,000,000 bushels, which is considerable of an advance upon some of its figures earlier in the year. Usually the figures of the government officers are below those made by competent private investigators, and in the present instance they are under some of the estimates made by outside sources. The wheat yield of 1898 was estimated at 675,000,000 bushels, but as a large quantity was left over from last year the actual supply in the next eight or ten months will not be much less than it was twelve months earlier. There is not much of a chance for a great advance in wheat, notwithstanding the activity in business and the general favorable trade conditions.

THE EXPANDING SOUTH.

Comparing the poverty, the depleted population, the maimed or undeveloped resources, the primitive condition of the transportation systems of the South at the close of the civil war with its present state, the Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore gives this strong but not exaggerated picture of Southern prosperity:

"Today the South has \$1,000,000,000 invested in manufacturing, with an annual output valued at \$1,500,000,000, and paying \$350,000,000 in wages. Its cotton mills, with 5,000,000 spindles, representing an investment of \$125,000,000, already consume yearly 1,400,000 bales of cotton. It is producing about 2,500,000 tons of pig iron a year, 40,000,000 tons of coal, from 10,000,000 to 11,000,000 bales of cotton, probably 10,000,000,000 feet of lumber, and 750,000,000 bushels of grain, and its railroads, steadily improving and increasing in length, have already a 50,000 mileage."

Prospering and going forth to prosper. This vast and growing production must have new and wider fields of distribution. That is why the South, by many commercial bodies, by some of its statesmen, and apparently by the

general feeling of its planters and its merchants, asks for the markets of Asia and consequently that the Philippines shall remain in the possession of the United States. Westward to the old East the course of southern empire takes its way.

Says the New York Sun in this connection: "On account of slavery the South objected to the admission of California. Her new and mightier wealth, more enduring and diversified than her old, makes expansion even beyond California a necessity to her. For that reason, among others, the business men and cotton planters of the South are resigned in advance to the defeat of Bryan. They prefer business to Bryanism."

KIMBERLY'S DIAMOND MINES.

A Prize Which the Boers Hope to Win Before War is Over.

Kimberly, which, it is said, the Boers have invested and isolated from the outside world, is the diamond region of the world, far surpassing the mines of Brazil in richness, says the Chicago Time-Herald. If the report of the investment be true, this is the most serious blow which Kruger has struck at the commercial interests of Great Britain in South Africa. Cecil Rhodes is in the town, and its defense will be stubborn. Kimberly is not a city in the modern use of the word. It is a great camp in which men's passions rise and fall as the treasure of the earth are uncovered or not found. The camp is in what is called the Vaal basin, the wash ground of the river which divides the Transvaal from the Orange Free State. The first diamond discoveries there were made about 1870 but it was 10 years later when Englishmen and others realized that the spot was the most valuable of its kind in the world.

By 1881 the mines which had been opened had yielded gems to the value of \$20,000,000. By 1887 seven tons of diamonds had been taken out, valued at \$250,000,000. This record placed the Brazil diamond mines in the shade and made Kimberly world-wide fame. The Cecil Rhodes syndicate, known as the De Beers, came into control of all the mines, after much negotiation. This syndicate is capitalized for \$75,000,000, and pays interest at the rate of 5 1/2 per cent per annum, and an annual dividend of 20 per cent. Since Cecil Rhodes came into control of the mines they have given out 2,500,000 karats of diamonds. To get these it has been necessary to wash 2,700,000 loads of the blue earth in which they are found.

In the working of these diamond mines there are employed about 1500 white men and 6000 natives. The greater proportion of these men are employed in the De Beers and Kimberly mines, the two biggest holes which greedy man has ever dug into the earth. The De Beers mine has an acre at the surface of 13 acres and a depth of 450 feet. The mines are worked from shafts sunk some distance from the original holes, and penetrating to the blue earth by transverse driving at depths varying from 500 to 1200 feet. The blue earth when extracted is carried in small iron trucks to the levels. Upon these levels the blue earth is worked until the gems within are extracted. The process of extracting takes from three to six months. The stones found vary in size from a pinhead to the largest ever found—42 3/4 karats. This largest stone when cut weighed 228 1/2 karats. It is one of the experiences of mine owners that they lose from 10 to 15 per cent of their product each year through the thefts of employees, who, although closely watched, still manage to get away with their loot. The punishment for stealing a diamond is 15 years' imprisonment. All diamonds except those which pass through illicit channels, are sent to England, in the weekly shipments averaging from 40,000 to 50,000 karats. The greatest outlet for stolen diamonds is through the Transvaal to Natal, where they are shipped by respectable merchants. It is said of the Rhodes interests in the mines that they take good care of

A SORRY SIGHT

It is, to see a strong man shaken like a reed by a paroxysm of coughing, which leaves him gasping for breath. People have suffered with bronchial affections for years, with obstinate, stubborn cough, and growing weakness. They have tried doctors and medicines in vain. At last they have been induced to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, with the general result experienced by all who put this wonderful medicine to the test—help at once, and a speedy cure.

For coughs, bronchial affections, weak lungs, spitting of blood, and other diseases of the organs of respiration, "Golden Medical Discovery" is practically a specific. It always helps; it almost always cures.

"I had been troubled with bronchitis and catarrh of the head for eight years; had severe cough, and at times great difficulty in breathing." writes J. W. Howerton, Esq., of Hingham, Hancock Co., Tenn. "A portion of the time my appetite was poor and part of the time I was unable to do anything. I had been treated by our best country physicians for several years but with little benefit. I had been told that your medicine for a long time but had not much faith in it. Last spring concluded I would try it, and before I had taken one-third of a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery I began to mend. I continued taking it until I had taken several bottles. Took Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets also. Now I feel like a new man, and can do as hard a day's work as any one."

Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for paper covered, or 31 stamps for cloth binding, to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Sick Women Advised to Seek Advice of Mrs. Pinkham.

LETTER TO MRS. STEWART NO. 24,852
"I had inflammation and falling of the womb, and inflammation of ovaries, and was in great pain. I took medicine prescribed by a physician, but it did me no good. At last I heard of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and after using it faithfully I am thankful to say I am a well woman. I would advise all suffering women to seek advice of Mrs. Pinkham."—Mrs. G. H. CRAWFELL, GRANT PARK, ILL.

"For several years my health was miserable. I suffered the most dreadful pains, and was almost on the verge of insanity. I consulted one of the best physicians in New York, and he pronounced my disease a fibroid tumor, advising an operation without delay, saying that it was my only chance for life. Other doctors prescribed strong and violent medicine, and one said I was incurable, another told me my only salvation was galvanic batteries, which I tried, but nothing relieved me. One day a friend called and begged me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I began its use and took several bottles. From the very first bottle there was a wonderful change for the better. The tumor has disappeared entirely and my old spirits have returned. I heartily recommend your medicine to all suffering women."—MRS. VAN CLEFT, 416 SAUNDERS AVENUE, JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS, N. J.

their workmen. They have built a model village called Kenilworth, within the precincts of the mines. In this village are cottages for the white workmen. A clubhouse has been built for their use, and there is a public library. The equipment of the mines is something remarkable. Each mine has 10 circuits of electric lamps. They consist of 52 arc lamps of 1000 candle-power each, or a total illuminating power of about 64,000 candles. Thirty telephones are located in each mine and over 100 electric bells to each for signaling. The lives of the workmen are insured and every precaution is taken to make their condition tolerable.

The rate of wages runs from \$2 to \$8 per day, unskilled labor receiving the lower price. What effect the closing of the mines by the war will have on the world at large it is hard to say. Diamonds have already risen in price, but there is a large stock on hand in English and French hands. Of course, all labor has ceased at Kimberly, and if the Boers get into the mines they will win rich prizes.

JANUARY WEATHER.

Some Data Regarding Its Conditions for the Past Twenty-seven Years.

The weather bureau service at Portland has issued the following data for the month of January, covering a period of 27 years:

Temperature.—Mean or normal temperature, 38 degrees; the warmest month was that of 1891, with an average of 43 degrees; the coldest month was that of 1888, with an average of 29 degrees; the highest temperature was 62 degrees on the 25th, 1888; the lowest temperature was 2 degrees on the 15th, 1888; average date on which first "killing" frost occurred in autumn, Nov. 26th; average date on which last "killing" frost occurred in spring, April 11th.

Precipitation (rain and melted snow)—Average for the month, 7.13 inches; average number of days with .01 of an inch or more, 19; the greatest monthly precipitation was 12.71 inches in 1883; the least monthly precipitation was 2.12 inches in 1893; the greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was 6.86 inches on the 5th and 6th, 1883; the greatest amount of snowfall recorded in any 24 consecutive hours (record extending to winter of 1884-85 only) was 9 inches on the 2d, 1890.

Clouds and weather.—Average number of clear days, 5; partly cloudy days, 7; cloudy days, 19.

Wind.—The prevailing winds have been from the south; the highest velocity of the wind was 53 miles from the south, on the 9th, 1880.

FEMINE FINANCIERING.

That women are the best financiers of the world we have often had opportunity to acknowledge, says the Honolulu "Independent." We have seen them at the auction sales when they made a "bargain" by buying an article they had no use for whatever, and we have seen them haggling over the price of cheap calico for a reduction of one cent a yard, and then triumphantly carrying their purchase to a fashionable dressmaker and paying her \$10 for a "morning" dress. This morning we could not help smiling while watching a lady credited with possessing good business sense buying "Chinese birds" on board a mail steamer and haggling over the price of the birds and beating down the seller of seven fine specimens by 50 cents of the original price. In the meantime her hack was waiting and the driver "changing." She made her bargain, however, saved 50 cents on the birds and paid the hackman \$1 for waiting. That is female financiering.

JACKSON COUNTY APPLES.

J. C. Whitman, of Medford, has packed and shipped 30 carloads of apples this season and has some still in reserve. These have found a wide market. New York, London, Chicago, New Orleans, Texas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Helena, being among the shipping points. Buyers direct from New York and Chicago as well as many nearer points have visited the orchardists of the valley this season.

WARM MITTENS.—For ladies, misses and children, at Wiggins'. Read ad. page 8.

Co-education, says the Puritan, tends to discourage sentiment.

THE OREGON SENATORS

SIMON HAS A VERY PROMINENT PLACE ON JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

McBride is Greatly Complimented in the Appointment to the Philippines Committee, One of the Most Important Positions in the Upper Body Had to Offer—Can Do Much for the Webfoot State's Interests.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.—As the business of the nation increases the work of congress naturally has to accommodate itself to the change in conditions. It would be impossible for congress to do the nation's business on the same plan for work that prevailed even half a century ago. Committee work has always been a potent factor in legislation, and becomes more potent as time passes. At the present, committee work prepares legislation so that when the report is practically ended. Long debates to political question and the important matters, such as rebate to national finances, or constitutional construction, on which political parties are divided; less urgent matters are fully developed in committee. While the importance of committee work has increased, the membership of controlling committees becomes a matter of general interest. The influence of a senator is often determined by his standing on committees.

Up to this date the house committees have not been announced; those of the senate are organized, and the state of Oregon has a reason to be dissatisfied with the standing of her senators. Mr. Simon had been elected when the last congress was organized. He was at a disadvantage during the last session on that account. By the late allotment of committees it is apparent that he made an impression as to his ability that accounts for his being a member of the very important and distinguished committee of the judiciary, one of the very highest. He is also chairman of irrigation and reclamation of arid lands, a committee that treats of much that interests our state, as we have great acreage that is semi-arid. At the last session he and Senator McBride warmly supported the proposition to build reservoirs in arid regions. This position will enable him to favor the reclamation of those lands, one of the most important questions of our day. It is estimated that if the arid lands can be reclaimed, they will furnish homes for fifty millions of people. Senator Simon also has position on the committee on public buildings and grounds, which relates to all public grounds and edifices here, at the capital, and elsewhere through all the states and territories. This places him in a position to secure the erection of whatever public buildings are needed for government business in Oregon; a matter that all will appreciate.

These varied positions will give Senator Simon opportunity to call into play the well known tact and ability that has given him prominence in our state. Senator McBride has position on several of the most important and honorable committees of the senate. He is chairman of coast defenses; that Oregon has much to expect from. He is also a member of the important Philippines committee, where he has associates who rank among the most honored among the senators. Mr. Lodge, its chairman, is member of the committee on foreign relations, of which Senator Davis, another member, is chairman. Senators Hale and Proctor are very eminent men. Senator Allison, chairman of appropriations, is also a member. The other member is Senator Beveridge, a young but very bright senator, who has personally visited the Philippines and has studied all questions of importance there, which accounts for his membership.

Sensors McBride is also on the commerce committee, that is of great importance, as it looks after rivers and harbors, shipping, quarantine, light-houses, and similar matters that are important for Oregon. He is also on forest reserves and Indian depredations, two committees that interest many Oregonians; is also on the new committee on inter-oceanic canals, which replaces the old Nicaragua canal committee and covers the entire subject. The importance of this committee cannot well be overestimated. Senator McBride believes in building the Nicaragua canal and desires to see the work begun as soon as possible. This is a committee that especially interests all the Pacific.

Perhaps the greatest compliment paid to Oregon in the organization of the senate is the appointment of Senator McBride to the Philippines committee. There he fills one of the most important positions the senate had to offer. There, also, he can effect more for the interest of our state than in almost any other that could be offered him, for we look to that region of earth as of great coming importance to all the Pacific states.

S. A. C.

CHRISTMAS IN PHILIPPINES

A Returned Volunteer's Description of Last Year's Festivities in the Army.

When we entered Manila there was scarcely a soldier in the army of occupation who did not confidently expect to spend Christmas at home, nor was this hope, entirely relinquished until the number of days before Christmas became too small to admit our arriving by that time.

But the next best thing happened. Home—a wee bit of it, 'tis true—comes to us across the ocean in boxes, and we threw away the pangs of disappointment and created the spirit of Christmas in our hearts, became merry and made for ourselves a Christmas full of good cheer in this far-

away land of eternal summer across the sea.

The ship bringing the boxes arrived in port the day before Christmas eve, and on Christmas eve carts piled up with boxes as high as would ride safely were creaking along toward the quarters of the various regiments as rapidly as the lumbering water buffaloes could be urged. Upon their arrival at quarters everybody responded with alacrity to the call for volunteers to unload them. Each man picked up a box and carried it into quarters to the bunk of the man whose name it bore. Some men received several boxes; some received none; but the boxes were immediately opened, and the good things to the taste, but often bad for the digestion, were shared by all; candy was plentiful—such candy as had never been in Manila before—and almonds and English walnuts, fruit cakes and cookies and ginger snaps and jams and preserves, all made at home, and various other things. Never before had men enjoyed such things more than these soldiers did. Men who had not seen home since boyhood ate something from another man's home, and spoke of their own home. These things were as strange to the Filipinos as their most curious dishes had been to us. There were light hearts and happy faces of children, for these remembrances from home touched a place in the hearts of men who had become inured to rough living and rough ways and made them for the moment "as little children." Christmas dawned gray and chill. At reveille many wore their blue blouses with the collar turned up, the exchange of the warm folds of a blanket for blouse and trousers being unwelcome and as tardy as discipline would admit. As soon as we were fairly astir it seemed like Christmas; it did not seem like an ordinary Sunday morning, for there were the opened boxes everywhere and the rub-bing whom accumulated from them, and there was the thought in every mind "It is Christmas," and "A Merry Christmas" was the greeting exchanged on all sides. Some firecrackers were fired, but most of the supply of these had gone up in smoke the night before.

During the forenoon it sprinkled very lightly several times. At 9:30 a. m. there were Catholic services for the American soldiers at San Ignacio, a church with the interior of richly carved wood in every part of Filipinos. From the street to the door squatted a line of beggars, blind, or crippled, or old, extending their palms beseechingly for alms. Giving to beggars is a religious duty, or rather a religious pleasure, which makes the number of beggars in Manila large. Services for the Spanish soldiers were not over. There are no benches, except along the sides, in the churches in the Philippines, and the soldiers were kneeling on the floor of polished teak, every one in a freshly laundered uniform of blue and white striped drilling, making a pleasing sight.

The services over, the soldiers marched out, and the services for the Americans began. These services consisted largely of music by a Filipino choir and orchestra. A short sermon was preached by Father McKinnon, chaplain of the 1st California. I was in the balcony, where I could see the musicians. I thought how funny it would appear in America to see the choir without coats and with their shirt tails over their trousers. Each one wore an immaculate white shirt, with pleated bosom, the tail as carefully ironed as the bosom. At the kitchen special preparations were made for dinner. The mess funds were exhausted in buying good things to eat, and we had a meal in which government rations scarcely entered. The mess halls were decorated with palm fronds and broad banana leaves.

When dinner was announced I dressed in my best white suit in honor of the occasion, with the thought it was my first time to eat Christmas dinner in a white suit and with the hope I would not next Christmas. We of our company sat down to a well-cooked dinner of a half baked chicken with dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, shrimp salad, peas, custard pudding, a bottle of claret and coffee. It was a meal such as could not be got at any restaurant or hotel in Manila, and it and the Thanksgiving dinner which my regiment ate with the Minnesotans were the best meals I ever ate in the Philippines.

A short time before sunset I went to the top of the barracks in time to see a beautiful western sky, with bands of exquisite green between the clouds. We assembled to drink eggnog at 7 p. m., and the evening was passed with music and dancing. While we were concluding the celebration of the day the people at home were just beginning to greet each other with "A Merry Christmas."—Jere Tarplin in Globe-Democrat.

THE TIGHT CHECK-REIN.

The tight check-rein is an important point for consideration. Paralysis and disorders of the brain and muscles are often the result of using a tight check-rein. Here are some of the reasons why it should not be used, given by the 500 and more veterinary surgeons who have signed a petition condemning it: It causes pain and distress in breathing. During extreme exertion it may cause an attack of giddiness or apoplexy—the last terminating probably in death. The long-continued pressure on the lower jaw tends to give the animal a hard mouth, and therefore renders it less obedient to the driver's rein. It does not prevent stumbling, but, on the contrary, predisposes the horse to fall; and with much more severity than if it were not used. It frets the temper of nervous and excitable horses and shortens the lives of all.—Rider and Driver.

AT LUCKY BOY.

Eugene Guard, Dec. 26th:

Frank Stewart came down last night from the Blue River mines and left again this afternoon with a load of freight for the Lucky Boy Company. The ten-stamp mill is running steadily night and day and will continue to do so for some time. The plates are already coated with gold and all think that the clean-up in a few weeks will be a good one. There is only a couple of inches of snow in the mine.

ALEX. LA FOLLETT'S TURKEY.

Editor Statesman:
Last Thanksgiving eve, one year ago, a turkey disappeared from A. M. La Follett's farm, supposed to have been stolen by Chinese residing near by. On Christmas eve, the turkey reappeared with the following poetry attached:

If you will listen kind friends,
A story I'll relate
Of last Thanksgiving eve
Thirty days from this date.
A chicken thief bold
Ventured out up the lane
'Till he came to a place
Where he knew there was game.
The lights were extinguished
Not a sound to be heard,
Except La Townsend's dogs,
Which were completely absurd.
All the dogs in the fawn
Were off on a spree
I'd make a change in them
If La Townsend was me.
But now from my story
No more I will stray
We can talk about dogs
On some other day.
The house was in slumber
'Twas about 10 o'clock
'Twas baked turkey I wanted
And the next thing to spot.
And gaining an entrance
Through a wide open door
Demanded a search
And hunted all over.
Ina said she heard rats
A fumbling around—
If this isn't one josh on her
'Then I will be bound.
But to my surprise
No turkey I found
But not much discouraged
For I smelled turkeys around.
Away to the hen house
With the lantern did flee
For if I didn't get turkey
'Then the josh was on me.
Took the lantern for a blind
For the moon was quite full
I could see a turkey gobble
As plain as a bull.

And on yonder fence
A big turkey I did spy,
He was nice, fat, and plump,
He just took my eye.
Then over the fence
My skill for to test,
'Twas a very great sin
To disturb him in rest.
He was onto his job
And made lots of noise
Would of woke a young army
But not La Follett's boys.
The turkey secured,
Then a fat hen I caught
And into the rice sack,
For which purpose I brought.
Leaving the sack just out from the door
Was to make them believe
The thief was frightened away
When trying to catch more.

Every thing was still quiet
I escaped unawared.
I opened the doors
To give the horses fresh air.
The poor old cows
A good cursing did get
For opening the gate
When it was left unshut.
He swore he would kill her
If she repeated the act
But next morning found
'He was off of the track.
Your pants were not touched
I swear on the spot
You forgot where you left them
But say you did not.

You say that your sugar
And flour barrel was robbed.
But when you read this
You will see 'twas a put up job.
John Noren is thought
By himself to be wise,
But when he reads this
He will open his eyes.

'Twas the Chinaman," he said
'And if Alex is smart or got any sense,
He will have them arrested
For committing the offense."
Had there been less feathers
Strewn along down the way
Bent would swear 'twas dam Chinaman
'Tight up 'till this day.
The neighbors were aroused
And they made a great search
And decided 'twas the Chinese
Who were robbing the perch.

Major Gibbs was present
And expected to be
The proud possessor
Of a big witness fee.
The news has been spread
Both far and wide,
As oft you will hear it
As the roar of the tide.

I'm green at composing,
If you find a mistake
Please let me know quick
And a correction I'll make.
A little nonsense
Now and then
Is relieved by
The best of men.
If my boat should capsize
While crossing back over
I hope I will meet you
On that evergreen shore.
Always be sure;
Never be in doubt;
There's nothing so hard
But what search will find out.
If you'll count your chickens again
And sum them all up
You will have no reason
For killing the "bull pup."

If you've replenished your supply
And have no use for him
Just turn him loose
'Till "Santa" comes again.
This fowl's tongue has been clipped
So no tale he will tell
When you hear you've been played
You won't feel so swell.
Now do not get angry
And turn up your nose
But next time remember
Where you're leaving your clothes.
I wish you all a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.—"Santa Claus,"