

THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN

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USELESS COMMISSIONS.

There is talk in Washington about the appointment of a "commission" to investigate the industrial conditions of China and Japan, and there is also a rumor that John Barrett, late minister to Siam by the grace of a powerful Eastern pull with President Cleveland, is to be a member of it. Such a "commission" is entirely unnecessary and uncalled for, and is but a scheme connected by professional pap-suckers at the national capital to create a soft berth for some of their number. "The industrial conditions of China and Japan" can be thoroughly investigated by our United States consuls, provided men of ordinary business sense are selected for such positions, and it is a sad commentary upon our consular system that any serious suggestion of a commission to do its most important work should now be made. This man John Barrett, who is spoken of for a place on the proposed dude commission, was a second rate reporter on the Evening Telegram when influential relations procured him the appointment as minister to Siam and the selection was the laughing-stock of Portland. Since his return from the Orient, John has been riding the popular expansion wave; has made himself conspicuous as a commercial prophet and our possibilities in Asia; has been flattering the powers that be at Washington, and has been in a pronounced manner bidding for notoriety and a soft snap. The "commission" business has been overdone in late years, and we hope to see go more of them than are absolutely necessary. Oregon for a few years had such a surfeit of "commissioners" that the people became thoroughly disgusted with them all, and the last legislature left very few in existence. And the state seems to live and prosper. So will the nation.

EXPANDING.

The contract was signed yesterday for the erection of the Barker cotton mill here, a factory that is to contain at the start twenty thousand spindles, and is ultimately to be of double that capacity. This is the second cotton mill to be started here inside of twelve months. The work is to begin at once and the mill will be in operation by the coming in of this season's crop. Mobile is rapidly taking a place in the field of industry.—Mobile, Alabama, Register.

THE SAME ALL THE TIME.

"Mr. Hemenway, of Indiana, said they talked with the democrats was they trouble one way and voted another. The republicans proposed to deal with the situation in a practical way. They proposed to give to the people of the islands every dollar heretofore collected under the Dingley law and every dollar hereafter collected under the fifteen per cent. rule." This extract from the debate in the house on Monday shows that the republicans propose to discount the democrats in doing the double act. For the sake of exact a tariff tax from Porto Rican imports; but, as soon as the money is received, it is to be given back to the Porto Ricans. We must ask two questions: If it is to be given back what reason exists for exacting it? Second, if it is to be exacted and then paid back, why not pay it back to the persons from whom it is exacted, instead of to the people at large, many of whom contributed no part of the money? The republicans are in an impossible position. They have heard from the country, and know that the republican masses, and the organs of the republican thought, are opposed to their Porto Rican policy, and that something must be done to meet the storm of criticism their action has aroused. So we see them resorting to this and that expedient, each more absurd than the other if that be possible—all of which shows that where there is but one right way the best policy is to take that way and not to wander into by paths, which lead only to further confusion.—Mobile, Alabama, Register.

This was the proposition all along, excepting that 25 per cent. was first proposed, and then a compromise made on 15 per cent.

The Puerto Rican government must be supported in some way. Roads are to be built, schools to be kept up, order to be maintained, and all the machinery of government to be supported. The money must come from somewhere. The people are too poor to pay direct taxes now. Internal revenue taxes would be a grievous burden to them. There is no better way, temporarily, than to impose minimum custom-house charges. This the leaders of congress have proceeded to do. They had to do something, and they have done the best thing that occurred to

them, considering all the circumstances. It is easy to find fault. But there is a responsibility upon men and parties charged with authority. They must act. We think the government of the new possessions should be left to Congress, and that body has taken this view of the matter.

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED.

It is as hard for the republican party to let go of Protection as it was for the democratic party to let go of Slavery. Yet the former is as clearly an economic evil as the latter was—though it lacks some of the grosser evils on the moral side.—Oregonian, yesterday.

This is respectfully referred to the wool growers of Oregon; to the prune and other dried fruit raisers; to the men who are producing mohair; the stockmen who receive benefit from protection on hides; to the poultry raisers; to the dairymen; to the farmers raising hops; in fact, to all of our farmers and manufacturers. Do they think it is an "economical evil" to be allowed to live, by being protected from the cheap labor of Australia, Continental Europe, China and Japan, and Mexico and the South and Central American republics? We do not believe they think so.

According to data kept for twenty-nine years, by the U. S. Weather Bureau, at Portland, Oregon, the mean or normal temperature during the month of April is 52 degrees. The warmest months were in 1897 and 1881, with an average of 55 degrees. The coldest month was in 1893, with an average of 46 degrees. The highest temperature was in 1897, on the 17th, being 89 degrees; the lowest in 1875, being 28. The average date on which the last "killing" frost has occurred has been April 11th. The average rainfall for the month has been 3.30 inches. Average number of days with .01 of an inch or more, 15. The greatest monthly precipitation was in 1883, being 7.88. Least in 1885, being 1.12. The greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was in 1883, being 1.34, on the 2nd. Average number of clear days, 6; partly cloudy, 10; cloudy days, 14. Counting on the average, according to the record, the people of this valley may look forward to a not unpleasant month in April. And all the conditions are now favorable to a little better than the average.

SEMPER IDEM.

We hope we will not be found fault with for using the above caption, which is often employed in a way calculated to inspire feelings of greater reverence than it does here. It is the way the Romans of old had to say, "always the same."

William J. Bryan is always the same. He has nothing new. Even his jokes are merely twisted to fit conditions that have arisen since he used them before, or since they were borrowed from the ancients who existed prior to the flood. His speech delivered in Salem yesterday was, as a matter of course, the same old thing. Nothing whatever that he has not said and repeated a thousand times, or ten thousand times. Nothing new, excepting the Puerto Rican tariff question; and this only as a substitution. The last time he spoke, or the last few times before this, he charged the republican party with some other inconsistency. Now he taunts their leaders with the inconsistency of proposing to charge the Puerto Rican products a small tariff, because President McKinley, in a message a few months ago, expressed the opinion that trade between that country and this should be without any custom house rates. As a matter of course, Mr. Bryan did not explain that the money proposed to be collected from the minimum rates is for the purpose of paying the expenses of government in that island, being a substitute for direct local or internal revenue taxes.

Mr. Bryan attempted a discussion of the money question, but his language was weaker than ever, or at least it appeared so. Perhaps this is an account of the fact that all of his predictions have been discredited by actual events.

Mr. Bryan is simply an actor. He has a pleasing address. He has a pleasing appearance, but it was noted that he is losing something of the latter. His face and figure have deteriorated since his last appearance here. But his voice is still sound and his mind unimpaired.

It is inconceivable that such a man as this can ever be President of the United States. It is impossible. For what he is, let us give him credit. He is a great speaker; a pleasing actor; a born orator. But this is his caliber. This is his depth. He creates nothing. He merely imitates and contorts. He sizes delfly a fact, mixes it with a fancy, and turns it into a pleasing rhetorical period. That is Bryan; all there is to the man; all there ever was. He is the same "boy orator of the Platte," a thousand miles long and only six inches deep. Semper idem.

Salem's big cannery is going to extend its field of usefulness, going into the general canning and packing business. Salem has long stood in need of a meat packing establishment. If our creamery will supply this need it will be doing a grand thing for the city and surrounding country.

Pacific Homestead, Salem, Or. Best farm paper. Issued weekly. \$1 a year.

URGE STUDY OF HOUSEKEEPING.

Speaker at Woman's Club Say Public Schools Should Teach New Science.

The education of the housekeeper of the future will be acquired in the public schools if recommendations of speakers at yesterday's meeting of the Chicago Woman's club in University hall are adopted. The subject was "The Value of Domestic Economy in the Elementary and Higher Schools," and all of the speakers urged the introduction of the study of the housekeeper's arts in the common schools. Much applause was gained by one speaker, who declared that this education should not be confined to girls, but should be shared by boy pupils. A proper appreciation of the housekeeper's cares, and the introduction of the business abilities of men into the conduct of the household were declared to be the solution of the problem of conducting the ideal home. Papers by Mrs. Evelyn A. Frake, Professor George A. Carnan of the Lewis Institute, and Miss Celia Hedenberg were followed by an informal discussion.—Inter Ocean.

USE FOUND FOR FISH SCALES.

Hitherto fish scales have been of little use, except to collectors of marine curios. Of course, the demand in this direction is limited, only certain exceptionally fine or rare scales being sought after. Now, owing to the discovery of a French chemist in Lyons, there is likely to be a growing market for fish scales. The Frenchman has discovered how the scales may be used in the manufacture of artificial pearls and other ornaments; in fact, the demand has been so great for them in Lyons that the supply is absolutely inadequate. Mr. Covert, United States Consul at Lyons, has interested himself in the matter, and finds out that there is an actual demand for large quantities of scales in his Consulate, where good prices are paid for them. He has even deemed the innovation of sufficient importance to form the subject of a report to his government, in which he gives directions as to how the scales should be transported. He says: "The scales should be sprinkled with salt as soon as they are removed from the fish and packed in tin cans. Any specimens sent to this Consulate will receive careful examination, and the results, with any suggestions that may be made and particulars of prices offered, will be duly reported. It is believed in Lyons that the sale of these scales may result in establishing an important business in an article that now has no commercial value."

Owing to the fact that the American sturgeon has the most beautiful and largest scales of almost any fish in the world this item may have considerable interest to fishermen on the Pacific coast, where the largest quantities of this huge fish are now captured.

ELLEN TERRY'S GIFT TO A LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

Miss Ellen Terry has sent to Miss Griffin, librarian for the blind in the library of Congress, a beautiful bas-relief of herself, cut in Parian marble from one of her most famous portraits, that her blind friends of the capital may feel how she looks. This tribute will be better understood when it is known she visited the pavilion where the blind read and play and where an entertainment is given by the philanthropic women and men of the city every afternoon. During the visit she met and talked to the blind and became so enthused with the work done for them that she presented each of the blind ones with a ticket for one of her performances. They were wild with enthusiasm.

Miss Terry was so touched by their emotion that she sent word to have them brought behind the scenes to talk with her and Sir Henry Irving. Then Miss Terry laughingly described herself to them and let them pass their hands over her head. As the ordinary picture was of no benefit to them in recalling one who had so endeared herself to them she promised something better. This was fulfilled when the bas-relief came.—From a New York Letter.

NORDAU ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY WOMEN.

Nordau has been making prophecies concerning the changes which will mark out the twentieth century from its fore-runners. "The greatest change," he writes, "which may be anticipated in the coming century is that of the relations between the sexes. Woman will be on a par with man in law and custom. The role of man, as the protector and ruler of woman, will be a thing of the past. He will have to sue for her love and faithfulness in a different way."

Dr. Nordau's remarks have been commented on in the usual trite vein of ridicule. Men are recommended to marry while there is some doubt as to which century 1900 is in, and so forth. But when we have ceased from such commonplace jibes, it is possible to discover sound sense in Dr. Nordau's conviction of the thing towards which we are inevitably tending. The progress of women's industries has made it possible for women to live without the help of a brother, husband or father. The relation between man and woman has been altered, and no cheap joking can get over the fact.

THE BARBER'S ARGUMENT.

The most amusing argument that we have heard against the constitutional convention, and by the way, the best in its favor, was sprung by our barber the morning after Mr. Waller's speech, at the court house. He expressed his disapproval of Mr. Waller, and added: "Why boss that man's crazy! He's running for Guvner, and wants to stop the niggers from votin'! If the niggers stop votin', we wouldn't have no use for a Guvner—white folks could govern themselves."—Hayneville Citizen.

VAGARIES OF JOE WHEELER.

General Joe Wheeler will receive no warmer welcome from any class of people when he resumes his seat in the house of representatives than from the doorkeepers of the various committee rooms into which he is sure to drop some time during each day. Some article of his clothing is stowed away in the closet of nearly every room. He has a way of jerking off his cuffs and putting them in unlooked-for places—frequently in the waste basket. After while he misses them, and runs around to the various doors, and insists that such and such an attendant has put them where he can't find them. After exciting searches they are sometimes found, but more often they are overlooked and get packed away in the official wardrobe. Many a pair of sleeve links has the general lost in this way. He will run into a committee room, and if he finds there a group talking on any subject in which he is interested he will drop his hat and coat on the floor, and in two minutes be in the thick of a heated argument. Some ponderous member of the committee will get up to leave the room, inadvertently step on the hat and in a twinkling the brave little man is up and smoothing out his headgear with the greatest surprise and solicitude, wondering how on earth it came to be on the floor. He is said to have lost more hats than any other man in congress, and the official barber always keeps an extra hat on hand for General Wheeler in case of emergency. When the members see him starting for home almost lost to sight under a very large hat that has evidently belonged to a 734-sized head, they know what has happened. All the members of the Wheeler family have been ever independent in their movements, and one rarely expressed any curiosity about the doings of the other, and while confidence was always enjoyed, it was never forced. On one occasion during the life of Mrs. Wheeler, who was a woman of charming personality if sometimes a bit sentimentally, this lack of family consultation placed the general in a somewhat awkward and certainly a very unusual predicament. The general had lodged his family for the winter in apartments in a fashionable section of the city, but after a trial of them for a few days, Mrs. Wheeler became dissatisfied, and one evening, when her husband returned from congress, she said: "Father, I do not like this place at all, and really think we had better move, if you don't object."

"Certainly not, mother," returned the ever gallant general; "just please yourself. Anything suits me."

Nothing more was said on the subject, but a couple of days later, on seeking the society of his family after the official duties of the day were over, the congressman found the apartment deserted, and learned, on inquiry, that his family had moved during the day. No one knew where they had gone. Mrs. Wheeler had merely neglected to inform her husband that they were to move that day, and where the new residence was. He went to various hotels, but didn't find them, so finally spent the night at one, and next day his colleagues were highly diverted and interested at the engaging candor with which the great little man related how he had lost his family, and asked their advice as to where they supposed he could find them. In the course of the day one of the children came to the capitol to find out why father hadn't been home the night before, and then the omission of letting him know the secret of where they had moved was rectified, and he went gaily to the new quarters, where, with Mrs. Wheeler, he had a hearty laugh over their temporary separation.

General Wheeler's hunches do not put many shekels into the pocket of the restaurant keeper of the house, but he is always a welcome guest, and at irregular hours drops in for a bowl of crackers and milk, which is his invariable luncheon fare. He never fails to give a tip which amounts to as much or more than the cost of his luncheon, and the waiters vie with each other in their efforts to take his order. He is beloved alike by all sorts and conditions of men, and when he gets back to congress will be joyfully welcomed by the humblest attendant as well as by the most distinguished of his colleagues.

HE MADE A HIT.

One of the really good stories is going around among the lawyers about Congressman Littlefield, relates the Lewiston Journal. "Twas when the congressman was stumping in his campaign. It was up in a Franklin county town. The chairman of the committee wanted to give Charles a good send-off, and so he said: 'Ladies and gentlemen, this is Hon. Charles E. Littlefield, who is known from Eastport to York as the one great orator of Maine. This, fellow citizens, is Hon. Charles Littlefield, who will talk to you from the setting of the sun until the rising thereof.' Applause!"

Then up rises Charles and darts a falcon glance at the chairman and another as piercing at the audience. "Gentlemen," said he, "you and the chairman can stay here in this hall if you want to until the rising of the sun, but as for myself, I'll tell you right now I'm going to be out of this hall in just fifty minutes."

And the applause that he got then was in earnest. The late Sir John Millais' bluff and hearty unconventionality of manner is the gleaming of a sudden smile tells of his reception of Cardinal Newman, when the latter dignity, with a bevy of prelates, came to the studio to sit for his portrait. Pointing gaily to his sitter's chair, the famous artist cried: "Come, jump up, you dear old boy!"

AGUINALDO'S ALLIES.

Bishop Potter has been out to Manila and has come home convinced that his early fears of "imperialism" were unnecessary and that the duty of the United States to retain and administer the Philippines is clear. The publication of this opinion has given great offense to the New England Anti-Imperialist League, whose secretary has addressed a letter to Bishop Potter telling him, in effect, that he does not know anything about it. His stay in Manila was too short to enable him to learn as much as the writer, one Erving Winslow, knows by staying right along in Boston, and "it may be well for you to know," he writes, "that this body has strengthened and deepened its conviction" to the contrary of Bishop Potter's judgment.

The impudence of this is characteristic and amusing and but scarcely important. What does call for some comment is the statement of this Boston person that he and his leaguers "have positive reasons for knowing that the elements that composed the admirable Congress and administration with which we should have treated fourteen months ago still exist and can easily be gathered together."

It is fair inference from this positive assertion that Mr. Winslow and his friends are in correspondence with the Tagalo leaders and have been encouraging them in their hostility to the United States. This is not a nice business for Americans to be engaged in. The "elements" that composed the admirable Congress are the elements busily engaged in lying in wait for and shooting American soldiers, and this they are doing because of the false and misleading promises made to them by their allies here at home. These people will have a heavy accounting to make with their consciences one of these days—or they would if they were possessed of such inconvenient things as consciences.

MONROE DOCTRINE IN THE NORTH.

The settlement of all questions in controversy between the United States and the Dominion of Canada would have been accomplished many months ago by the Joint High Commission, had it not been for the Alaska boundary.

The representatives of American interests and the representatives of Canadian interests came to a deadlock because the Dominion government virtually refused to agree to anything unless we should first agree to the extension of British sovereignty over territory acquired by us from Russia and held by us for thirty-three years under a treaty title undisputed until now.

It is reported that the Joint High Commission will soon resume its sessions, the Alaska boundary question meanwhile having become the subject of direct negotiations between our Department of State and the British Foreign Office.

Under such circumstances, thinks a writer in the New York Sun, it must be regarded as fortunate that the maintenance of American rights on the Pacific coast north of 54 degrees 40 minutes is in the hands of an administration as distinctly pledged as is President McKinley's by the platform on which he was elected.

"We reassert the Monroe Doctrine in its full extent; and we reaffirm the right of the United States to give the doctrine effect by responding to the appeals of any American state for friendly intervention in case of European encroachment. We have not interfered with the existing possessions of any European power in this hemisphere, but those possessions must not, on any pretext, be extended. We hopefully look forward to the eventual withdrawal of the European powers from this hemisphere, and to the ultimate union of all of the English speaking part of the Continent by the free consent of its inhabitants."

The Sun aptly remarks: "No American contemplates for an instant the possibility of the abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine, or the surrender of a square foot of American territory or the extension upon any pretext of the existing possessions of any European power in this hemisphere, Great Britain included."

THE AUTHOR'S RERIL.

"Think twice before you answer!" hissed the hero, addressing the heroine. Here the author broke into a cold sweat. "What if she should?" gasped this person. "Anybody who has ever written a truly great novel well knows the effect of the heroine thinking twice in the opening chapters would be to render further complications impracticable. Pretty much everything depends upon the heroine being the girl who thinks sparingly."—Detroit Journal.

It is wonderful to see persons of sense passing away a dozen hours together in shuffling and dividing a pack of cards.—Addison.

SITTING UP IN THE EVENING.

Every one who has ever been a child will recall that sense of injury entailed by being sent to bed early—that conviction that you are being deprived of the most interesting part of the whole day. There is really no knowing what the elders are up to when once they get the youngsters tucked up safe in bed, but it stands to reason it must be very interesting; or why should they be in such a hurry to get the youngsters out of the way?

With some children this amounts to more than mere feeling. It was a little girl of the latter sort that begged so hard to sit up just for once that her mother one evening not long ago said that she might. How the little girl's eyes danced at the prospect of all the wonderful things she would see for herself upon this, her first occasion of "sitting up." Now commiseratingly she regarded the other children, who were, as usual, packed off to bed at an early hour. She seated herself in her small chair and eagerly awaited developments.

But imagine her surprise when her parents, as was their custom, seated themselves at the library table, and, unobscured, but hygienically, turning their backs to the light, began to read. For some time the small girl rocked away in her small chair in silence. Then came a sleepy, plaintive voice: "Is that all you do?"—Cincinnati Inquirer.

MRS. DEWEY'S READY WIT.

The wife of the admiral of the navy is noted for her brightness at repartee, says the Philadelphia Post. At the time of her engagement to the hero of Manila bay, she was much annoyed at the publicity given to her every movement, and very sensitive to criticism. An editor of one of the Washington papers called to her over the telephone one day in regard to a photograph that had been sent to him to use in a descriptive article.

"It is so poor," explained the editor, who was an old friend of Mrs. Dewey's, "that I dislike to use it. Are you sure you know which one I refer to?" "Oh, yes," said Mrs. Dewey, "that's all right." "But I don't think it is all right," said the editor. "Don't you want justice done you?" "No," replied Mrs. Dewey, "I only hope for mercy."

CURIOUS SPIDERS.

Consul Plummer of Maracaibo, under date of December 6, 1899, reports that silk-spinning spiders are found in the palm trees of Venezuela. Some produce white, some yellow silk. The consul understands that the silk has been made into handkerchiefs. A copy of the report, together with a specimen of silk accompanying it, was referred to the department of agriculture. Under date of January 27, 1900, the entomologist says that silk produced in this way can not be made of valuable commercial value, because of the troublesome necessity of keeping the spiders separated to prevent their food being insects, this also involves considerable labor in supplying them.

Attempts to utilize the silk of a Madagascar spider of the same species some years ago resulted in the discovery that the product was more expensive than ordinary silk.

HIS SON'S OPINION OF HIM.

On the tomb of John Ruskin's father at Shirley, near Corydon, England, is the following characteristic epitaph, placed there by his devoted son, says the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph: "He was an entirely honest merchant and his memory is to all who keep it dear and helpful. His son, whom he loved to the uttermost and taught to speak the truth, says this of him."

THE PLACE FOR HIM.

"I wish we was all over in Kimberley," said little Willie. "Why?" his mamma asked. "I heard papa reading last night that bread cost nearly half a dollar a loaf there, so I guess they wouldn't try to keep a person from filling up on cake."—Baltimore Times.

THE DEPTH OF WOE.

"What's Mamie crying for?" "She wants to vote when she grows up." "Well, what's she crying about? May be she can vote all right." "Yes, but little Tommie Sticklebat says he won't marry a strong minded girl."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

GOOD TIMES IN GERMANY.

An index of German prosperity has been found in the increasing number of Germans who visit Italy. In 1899 the number of German tourists who traveled on the Gotthard Railway was 28,000; in 1899 it was 40,000. Of Swiss cities Lucerne benefits by this annual migration.—New York Post.

A RICH CATCH.

Lady Mary Hamilton, daughter of the late Duke of Hamilton, will, when she comes of age in 1905, be one of the richest women in Britain. It is believed that by that time she will have something like £100,000 a year.

Repentance is a heart's sorrow, and a clean life ensuing.—Shakespeare. "Battle's magnificently stern array!"—Byron, "Child Harold."

There is no vice so simple but assumes some mark of virtue on its outward part.—Shakespeare.

NEW TO-DAY.

FOR SALE—Two thousand pounds, of hop wire, and 100 sacks, good as new. Inquire of Harvey Taylor, Macleay, Oregon. 3:30-4 w (1)

WANTED—The undersigned wants to secure a number of wood choppers to cut 500 cords of wood. Will pay good price for cutting done. Four miles southeast of Independence. For further particulars, call on or address O. T. Murphy, Independence, Oregon. 3:30-4 w (1)

HARNESSES

WHIPS, ROBES California Oak-tanned Leather used, all Harness Oil, etc. F. B. SHAFER 23 State Street, Salem, Oregon

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures those eruptions, boils and pimples which are so likely to appear in the Spring; cures scrofulous diseases in their most tenacious forms; cures salt rheum or eczema with its dreadful itching and burning; cures all stomach troubles due to generally weak condition and impure blood; cures debility, sick headache and "that tired feeling," which just as surely indicate that the blood is lacking in vitality and the elements of health. Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints