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This fine weather is giving the Twice-a-week Statesman's subscription lists another boom.

If the Southern Pacific builds a line to Tillamook bay from Sheridan, we think a way will be found to connect Salem with this direct road to deep water, by the construction of a spur, or a motor railway, to Derry.

Our cannery and evaporator will take care of the vegetables and fruits of this section, to the full extent of its capacity, first, this year; and it may help to get pork products and other things ready for distant and near-by markets after this is done.

We are glad to note that the wheelmen are in favor of paying the bicycle tax. Pay it, and keep on paying it from year to year, and wonderfully beneficial results will accrue. There will be good bicycle paths, and these will bring good roads.

We are glad to note that few hop contracts are being made. There is nothing in contracting, excepting for the buyer, in case the market rules higher than the contract price. It is a gamble, in which the grower puts up all the stakes, or very nearly all.

There can be no good reason for any Republican in Marion county refusing to vote the Legislative ticket straight, and the same applies to most of the balance of the ticket. It is important that Oregon should have a Republican Legislature at the session of next winter. There is a United States Senator to elect.

The smallpox in the Eastern Oregon towns is being stamped out. The Pendleton East Oregonian reports that "there is practically no smallpox in Pendleton." If more attention had been paid to vaccination there would be no smallpox at all; nor would the disease have ever got such a start.

THE TEXT BOOK COMMISSION.

It is provided by the law passed by the last Legislature that in the month of January next the Governor shall appoint a State Board of Textbook Commissioners of five members, who shall meet on the second Monday of next July and adopt textbooks for the public schools of Oregon for six years.

This is going to bring up a matter of great public concern, and a very difficult one. It will without doubt be the occasion of a great deal of dissatisfaction and scandal, no matter what men may be selected by the Governor, and no matter what changes may be made in the textbooks, or if no changes at all are made.

This is certain, on account of the fact that the company that has the present contract for furnishing the textbooks in this state is under the same management that has been with it for a long time in the past. This management has been the occasion of great scandal for years. It has sought to control politics in this state, to serve its own ends, and it has interfered in many ways in the efficiency of the public service. It has been frequently charged with corruption, and it is generally believed that these charges are true. It will therefore be necessary for all connected with this important work to exercise the utmost care in all of its details, in order to be free from suspicion, and to protect the public from abuses that would otherwise surely arise, and that will no doubt be charged with or without foundation. The trail of the serpent must, if possible, be obliterated and kept out of sight and out of fact.

Under the present conditions, it would be hard to devise a system whose workings would be without abuses, either real or charged. Probably the system that has been given the sanction of law will be as effective and satisfactory as any that could be devised. Anyway, it is the system under which we are to work for the time being, at least; so we must put up with it and make the best of it.

NO SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY NEEDED.

Every now and then somebody asserts that our international interests would be promoted by a body of professional diplomats, and that it might be well for our federal government to establish at Washington a school in which young men should be trained for diplomatic functions. The assertion is based on the assumption that, in European countries, diplomatic

duties are entrusted only to men especially trained for the purpose, and that, by neglecting to follow their example, the United States is placed at a disadvantage in negotiations. That the assumption is not warranted by facts will be clear to any one who reads an article on "Diplomacy as a Profession," contributed by a "Diplomat" to the last number of the London National Review.

The writer of this article begins by pointing out that the field of diplomacy has been signally narrowed during the last half century, and is likely to be still further curtailed. What he has in mind is the extreme rapidity with which negotiations can be now carried on, owing to the enormous extensions of the facilities of communication; that is to say, the spread of the postal system and the establishment of the electric telegraph. When the long distance telephone shall have come into general use, the minimization of the functions entrusted to diplomatists sent to foreign countries will be complete.

The consular officers of the future should be business men, rather than professional diplomats. The recent appointment of H. B. Miller, of Oregon, to an important post in China, is a good one in this respect. Mr. Miller will look out for trade for American products in that country. The principal need we have for State Department officials in foreign lands is as sort of international drummers of trade; as the advance agents of expansion of our commerce. It is important that only such should be sent to the Oriental countries now. We need greater markets more than we need diplomacy—in fact, as suggested above, the latter can be attended to from the central office in Washington.

UNCALLED FOR.

When Mrs. Flax-Talker Lord's gubernatorial husband was banished, as United States minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to the Argentine Republic, such comical papers as the Oregonian and the Telegram congratulatorily chinkled over "the distinguished honor to our state and its illustrious son." One man in Oregon, who knew something of South America, said: "Well, \$-Hanna's Bill has given the Lord a gold brick." The accuracy of his diagnosis is shown by the telegraphic announcement, that Mrs. Lord is on her way back to Oregon, in high dudgeon and disgust, declaring that the salary her liege lord gets will not enable him to keep his family decently in the Argentine capital. The position is utterly worthless. There is neither honor nor money in it, and it only serves as a sort of diplomatic penal colony to rid successive administrations of nuisances and pestiferous nobodies.—The Dalles Times-Mountaineer.

The above clipping is taken from a marked paper forwarded to the Statesman.

It is almost indecent, Mrs. Lord worked hard and faithfully for Oregon, in attempting to get flax growing and treating on a firm basis. And the time will come when her efforts will be appreciated, for the time will be when this industry will bring millions of dollars a year into the Northwest, to be paid to growers and laborers here. It will be part or all of the forty millions of dollars that annually go from this country to foreign lands for the manufacture of flax, while all the natural conditions are here present for the growing of the flax fibre equal to any that can be produced in the best known flax districts of the Old World. And the fibre of the plants that furnish the seed for oils and other purposes will be fashioned into grain bags, to take the place of the jute bags that now come from the other side of the globe in India. Mrs. Lord deserves credit rather than ridicule. And, furthermore, there was no intention to give ex-Governor Lord a "gold brick" in assigning him to the honorable post in the next most important country of South America. There are many men who would be glad to get such a "gold brick." However, the country and its customs may not suit Mr. Lord. He is an Oregonian, and used to the best conditions of the finest country on earth; so this is quite possible. And if he desires to return home, the feeling is nothing but a natural one.

LEASEHOLD HOMESTEADS.

We reprint in another column, from the Pacific Homestead, the farm paper published in this city, an article from the pen of Hon. John Minto, of Salem, in which is included the draft of a proposed law for leasehold homesteads in the arid regions, on lands suitable for pasturage purposes only or chiefly.

It seems to us that the proposed law would be a good thing. It would encourage the settlement of wide regions that are now almost without value or benefit to the country, and the building of thousands of comfortable homes in sections that are now given over almost wholly to solitude. The measure proposed would have all the necessary safeguards against monopoly of the land or of nature's most precious gift in the regions for which it is designed, that is, the water courses.

The draft was made by Mr. Minto, as he states, at the suggestion of a Senator of the United States, and it will probably be proposed in Congress, in substantially its present form, in the shape of a bill for enactment as a federal statute. The matter is worthy of consideration and discussion. Oregon has many thousands of

acres of lands of the description noted, in the eastern and southeastern portions of the state. In some way or other, these lands should be reclaimed and brought into the service of civilization; and the way suggested promising of beneficial results.

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY.

The time has come when the people must rally to the support of Willamette University, if the institution is to go ahead and take advantage of its opportunities. It now has the undivided support of its great patronizing church. Portland University is preparing to turn over its unfinished work and the results of its accomplished labors to our Salem institution, and this leaves a clear field.

But if there is to be growth, if the opportunities are to be grasped, there must be a preliminary effort on the part of the people most interested. Salem must take the lead. She is asked to complete the subscriptions to the \$10,000 emergency fund, one-third of the amount to be paid annually. This will relieve the institution of pressing burdens and give a nucleus and foundation for further work. Then can follow the increase and creation of endowment and building funds.

We think the people of this city, the home of the honored institution, can ill afford to refuse its initial help. They can ill afford even to allow the work to lag. In fact, they cannot afford it at all. The sum asked is not a great one—three and a third thousand dollars a year for three years. No one in the community need give individually a large sum, if the burden assumed is participated in generally; though we have some who could well afford to contribute generously.

We hope to see the work pushed forward now, and without halting, and may there be a general and generous response.

We print on this page a clipping from the New York Press, on the Clark case. It is in line with the comments of the leading newspapers throughout the country. Is Oregon going to lower her standard and her standing in the estimation of the people of this country whose good opinion she needs, by going into the class with the "mortgaged" states, by sending a man to the United States Senate, at the session of the Legislature of next winter, whose sole claim (as was Clark's) is his great wealth? We are confident that the honored manhood of Oregon will assert itself and revolt against this programme.

Perhaps the Italian prunes of the Willamette valley are injured. It is too early to tell the full extent of the damage. But the apples are all right. The Statesman has for years urged our orchardists to set out more apple trees, and especially winter apple trees, and we think this advice is still good. The apple is the staple of the Oregon fruits. It is the fruit that has made the name of Oregon famous, and will continue to add lustre to its fame.

Willis S. Duniway has been made secretary of the Republican State Central Committee. This is an excellent selection. Mr. Duniway is a clean and brainy young man. The people of Salem, where he is well known, have confidence in Mr. Duniway, and they are always glad to hear of his preferment.

THE JUDGMENT AGAINST CLARK.

(New York Press.)

It is most fortunate that the vote in the Senate Investigating Committee is unanimous for the unseating of Senator Clark—as he must be styled until the title is actually stripped from him. There is now no possibility of a prolonged wrangle in which the argument of a partisan motive for his punishment would be freely used and its lesson perverted with nearly half the people. There can be no possible misconception of the merits of the case. It is bribery proved to the hilt for the first time in the history of the body to which it is to be feared more than one bribe-giver has found his way. It is shown at last not that a seat in the Senate cannot be bought, but at least that it is not always safe to buy it.

It is perhaps late in the day to make the example. In most even of the newer states the period of the bonanza Senator is passing. Nevertheless the vote will be a facer for all those who rely on the use of money in all kinds of politics, from primary to Presidency elections. It will be a check to political pessimism and cynicism such as we do not recall. This man's income is believed to have been the largest west of New York. The fact that out of it he could not purchase a real political honor and that its lavish outlay had brought him nothing but fears and cares in defending his counterfeit glory and then disgrace in losing it is likely to cause a considerable revision of the estimated ways to eminence. It will occur to a good many Americans to whom it has not occurred before that corruption wins not more than honesty.

A criminal prosecution should, of course, follow the expulsion. It cannot be brought in Washington, and probably the Montana state courts possess exclusive jurisdiction. If so it is certainly their business to begin a purification of their Commonwealth. From the character of at least one of the Judges, as brought out in the bribery proceedings, it is not too much to expect that they will do their duty.

COURAGE OR CONSCUINITY.

The Oregonian, while gracefully acknowledging to support the Republican ticket, finds fault with the state convention because it failed to commend the only Pacific coast Senator who had the "courage" to vote against the Puerto Rican tariff bill. Inferentially, this is a condemnation of the course of Representatives Moody and Tongue, and Senator McBride, and an implication that they were lacking in courage to express their honest convictions. The Republicans of Oregon, by their delegates in convention, have endorsed the votes of Messrs. Tongue and Moody, and Senator McBride, by renominating the two former, while the only indorsement yet accorded Senator Simon comes from the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the Oregonian. As to Senator Simon's motive for his vote, there might be two opinions. Ordinarily it is fair to assume that a Senator votes from motives of the public good, and the assumption might be permitted to hold in this case, were it not for the fact that the Great Bulldozer goes out of its way to ascribe improper motives to all who disagree with it, and especially to Senator McBride, against whom it seems to have an indecent hatred, carrying it to the extreme of deliberate lying in regard to the importance of his committee assignments. Therefore it is well to investigate, and ascertain whether it is not possible that some other term than "courage" and some other motive than justice for the down-trodden Puerto Ricans is applicable to and responsible for Senator Simon's opposition to the Republican majority and his alliance with the Democrats and the "small men" of the Republican minority.

Who are these "Puerto Ricans" who are interested in the removal of the duty on tobacco (for instance), and how does the bill affect them? "The Tobacco Leaf," a trade paper published in New York, devoted to the interests of the wholesale and retail tobacco trade, contains the following advertisement in its issue of April 4th:

The Cream of the 1900 Crop is Ours. The Steadily Increasing Sale of Our Porto Rico Tobacco Has Necessitated the Securing of Two Additional Packing Houses. All Our Tobaccos Are Packed in Havana Style Only. Levi, Blumenthal & Co., 118-120 Maiden Lane, New York. Warehouses in Porto Rico at Caguas and San Juan.

Conscuinity may have had something to do with Senator Simon's vote. "Blood is thicker than water," and it is only natural that Simon should have a friendly feeling for Levi and be easily "influenced" to see the "justice" of the demand for free trade with those suffering Puerto Ricans of 118-120 Maiden Lane, New York, and so he towered aloft in the Senate and "courageously" voted against his Republican colleagues, and allied himself (not for the first time) with the opposition. In other words, in order to accommodate Levi he betrayed his party, just as he did in bygone days to accommodate Barney, whose surname is Goldsmith, and his motive was just as lofty.

"Tobacco Leaf," in its editorial columns, commenting upon a section of the bill giving importers certain privileges, says:

"It is not conceivable that the House, or the committees through whose hands the bill must eventually pass, will interiere in any way with this just provision, which we believe was SECURED BY THE TIMELY AND INTELLIGENT ACTION OF ONE OF OUR LEADING PORTO RICO TOBACCO IMPORTING FIRMS."

Is there any stranger testimony needed as to the motives behind the attempt to defeat the Puerto Rican tariff bill? And it was partially successful. The reduction from 25 to 15 per cent. of the regular tariff was a present of an immense amount of money to the Puerto Ricans of Maiden Lane, New York, who farm the tobacco farmers of the island of Puerto Rico, and did the latter no good whatever.

And Senator Simon had the magnificent "courage" to vote in favor of knocking off the other 15 per cent.

E. H. FLAGG.

BRET HARTE'S TRICK, ON LA-BOUCHERE.

Bret Harte once played a joke on his friend, Henry Labouchere, editor of London Truth. Disguising himself as a mendicant Harte took one of his poems to him and asked that it be purchased and printed.

"Such rot as that!" yelled Labouchere. "Look here, man, take this shilling. You look distressed. Get something to eat, then go to work at manual labor. You can never be a poet. Don't attempt it. You will starve to death."

It was time for Harte to remove his disguise and Labouchere nearly tumbled. The poem had been printed in Truth—had, in fact, been printed all over the world, and we all know Bret Harte is a successful writer.

Labouchere was angry. He had been cleverly tricked and failed to see that it was funny. It was a long time before he would be friendly with Harte.—Washington Letter.

President McKinley has been elected an associate member of the Whittier Home association of Amesbury, Mrs. McKinley has been a member of the association for some time.

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



CASTORIA for Infants and Children. Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles and cures Constipation. It regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of



In Use For Over 30 Years. THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 27 N. MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

DOVE COLLIDED WITH ENGINE.

A dove, winging its flight over the tracks of the Southern Railway near Julietin, Monroe county, collided with a passenger train going in the opposite direction at a high rate of speed yesterday afternoon. The bird's body plunged through the glass window of the cab. Its beak, sharp as a needle's point, pierced the right eye of Engineer Charles Wallace and the surgeons say it destroyed the engineer's sight temporarily and possibly permanently.

The dove was killed by the sudden contact with the cab window. Its quivering body fell on the iron floor of the engine cab after striking the engineer and was picked up by the fireman.

So great was the momentum of the train and the dove's body that the glass window was not smashed by the blow of the collision. The hole through which the bird was hurled was clean-cut, like that made by a bullet fired through glass.

The wounded engineer was brought to Atlanta this morning to have his eye treated.—Atlanta Journal.

THE NEW SLANG FROM LONDON.

New York fashionables now borrow their slang from London. Americanisms are considered vulgar. In what is called good society on this side such phrases as "boulder," not quite a cad, but a fellow who is not a gentleman; "crummy," meaning the reverse of cranky; "quid," for roll of money, and "a regular toff" for a would-be swell, are common.—New York World.

CARRIED TO EXTREMES.

Teacher—What in the world do you mean by writing in your history paper that "cessation of hostilities was welcomed by the participants?"

Tommy—W-y, I thought you told us last week to always say "trousers" instead of "pants."—Indianapolis Press.

THE PLANET VENUS.

Fresh Contributions to Our Knowledge of That Celestial Body.

A new volume of the "Annals of Harvard Observatory" contains some valuable contributions to existing knowledge of the planet Venus. These contributions are from the Harvard observers at Arequipa, Peru, headed by Professor W. H. Pickering. In the clear atmosphere at Arequipa a high mountain station, the best opportunity is given for the study of the brilliant planet now radiant in the western sky at evening.

On Saturday morning we made some suggestions concerning the probable condition of the planet from personal observation. The conclusion then stated was that Venus is enveloped in a dense covering of cloud indicating a great amount of water on the planet. It was reasoned that only cloud or a water surface would reflect so much light as Venus reflects. As observation reveals no surface markings of consequence it was to be assumed that the real surface is not visible and that the cloud covering alone is seen. The observations in Peru tend to confirm this view, but they go much farther.

The Literary Digest of last week contained a summary of the Peruvian observations with comment by Garret P. Service. Professor Pickering noted the great refractive power of the planet's atmosphere above the cloud layer and concluded that the atmosphere must be dense. According to his calculation the atmosphere of Venus must be several times more dense than that of the earth at sea level. This atmospheric density would favor the suspension of water and other vapor above the planet, a condition that probably obtains. Professor Pickering likens the condition of Venus in her dense cloud covering and heavy atmosphere to that of the vapor-wrapped earth millions of years ago. In other words, Venus is broiling and laying down her coal measures, or may be still in her Silurian age, waiting for the animals and plants of the carboniferous era. If the nebular hypothesis is fairly correct, Venus is one of the latest children of the sun nebula, and, as a consequence of lateness, is not so far developed as the earth.

The observations at Arequipa do not sustain the theory recently advanced that the axis of the planet's rotation is horizontal to the plane of the orbit. The Harvard observers find that the axis of rotation is perpendicular to the plane of the orbit. If the axis is perpendicular there are no changes of seasons on the planet.

The great density of the planet's atmosphere and the heavy covering of cloud are certainly excellent indications of an earlier stage of growth than that of the earth. But the presence of a vast amount of water on a body near the sun might explain the phenomenon of dense clouds and possibly that of a deep, heavy atmosphere. Until these Peruvian observations were made little more had been learned about Venus than was known to the early astronomers who looked at the planet with their cumbersome instruments sixty feet long. These instruments, of small aperture and long focus, were the best

that could be devised for overcoming the difficulties caused by the planet's intense brightness.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12.—While it is improbable that any legislation looking to an increase of pay for postal clerks will be adopted at this session, it is possible that some act may get through regulating their hours of work. Senator Gear, of Iowa, has introduced and will push a bill providing that clerks in first and second class offices shall be required to work not exceeding forty-eight hours during the six working days of each week, and not more than eight hours during any one day, and such number of hours on Sunday as may be required by the interests of the service. Legal holidays are to be counted eight hours without regard to the time actually employed. If any clerk or employe is employed for a greater number of hours he is to be paid extra in proportion to his salary as fixed by law.

The credit of the United States is now the best of any nation in the world at any time in the past. The recent two per cent. bonds are now selling at 106, which makes the interest on them only .0175 per cent. In strong contrast is English credit, the recent loan of that country drawing nearly three per cent. on the market price. During the seventeen days since the passage of the act 5 and 4 per cent. bonds to the value of \$210,000,000 out of a possible \$840,000,000 outstanding have been offered for refunding into the new 2 per cents. At least \$25,000,000 have been offered by private individuals, which shows how hard it is to find well-paying investments.

The report of the naval committee submitted with the annual appropriation bill points out that the United States stood No. 20 in the list of naval powers seventeen years ago. Since then it has spent for new ships \$98,529,511.85, and the vessels now under construction will cost \$62,570,610.23. It now ranks fourth among the naval powers of the world—England first, France second, Russia third, the United States fourth, and Germany fifth. It is ahead of Germany today only by 2,730 tons—a cruiser about the size of the Atlanta.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has called for bids for supplying his office with paper to be used in printing the internal revenue stamps for the next fiscal year. The quantity required under the contract contemplated by this circular will be about 1,000,000 pounds, and will be white, green, or such other color as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, but the coloring material used must not be such as to be injurious to persons handling the paper.

The Agricultural bill has been reported to the House. It carries \$4,116,400, being \$390,778 more than the law for the current year. An additional allowance of \$40,000 for seed distribution is granted upon the petition of 225 members of the House.

Senator Kyle of South Dakota, chairman of the Industrial Commission, has returned from the South, where the commission has been taking testimony regarding labor conditions. Mr. Kyle is much surprised at the trade developments there. "I predict," he said, "that within the next two years the South will be a rival of New England in manufacturing. I was informed in Anniston, Ala., that a firm there was shipping a trainload of sewer pipes to China and Japan, every week. Had it been cotton goods I would not have been so astonished, but I never thought the trade in sewer piping would be so brisk. The manufacturers are shipping hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of cotton goods to the Orient, and in some cases the whole supply of the mill is used in this trade."

The President has notified Congress that he has returned \$403,030 to the Mexican government, being the amount unpaid under the award of the arbitrators of the La Abra Mining Company. Nearly eight years ago, Congress passed an act directing the Attorney General to bring suit to the Court of Claims to determine whether the United States had not won this arbitration by fraud on the part of the claimants and to return the remainder of the amount to Mexico if such should prove to be the case.

More money per capita, more gold, more silver, and a larger total of money in circulation than ever before is the summarization of the "Circulation Statement" issued by the Treasury Department for April 1, 1900. For the first time in the history of the country the per capita circulation has crossed the \$26 line, and the year 1900 carried the total for the first time past the two-billion-dollar line, while the amount of gold and gold certificates in circulation is larger than at the corresponding date of any previous year.

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