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The Statesman has been established for nearly fifty years, and it has some subscribers who have received it nearly that long, and many who have read it for a generation. Some of these object to having the paper discontinued at the time of expiration of their subscriptions. For the benefit of those, and for other reasons, we have concluded to discontinue subscriptions only when notified to do so. All persons paying when subscribing, or pay-

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Alfonso XII of Spain will come of age May 17, 1902. The occasion will be appropriately observed at the Spanish court. J. M. Currie, a former minister to Spain, will be present as a representative of this country.

The German Government has decided to attach agricultural experts to the more important Consulates in this country for the purpose of observing methods pursued by our farmers. The increasing use of American farm machinery in Germany has almost revolutionized the business, and it is proposed to inform the German farmer how the farm is conducted in this country.

Germany is taking a different view of the Monroe Doctrine than she had a few years ago, when Bismarck referred to it as "the impudence of the United States." Now, when Germany wants to occupy a part of Venezuela temporarily to collect a debt, she recognizes the force of the doctrine by virtually applying to the United States for permission to do so, before any steps should be taken in that direction. This recognition of the Monroe Doctrine is more absolute than Germany has ever made before, and Uncle Sam should feel a little pride in the manner in which his id as are respected abroad.

The inhabitants of Formosa who passed under the dominion of Japan at the close of the war with China, do not appreciate their new masters and have several times risen in revolt. During the past few months the rebels have been busily preparing to strike a hard blow for freedom. The last outbreak came about a month ago, when a party of over 100 coolies, engaged in transporting camphor, were attacked by the insurgents. Twenty of them were killed, all but one having their heads cut off. This beheading results from an offer of prizes by the rebel leaders for all heads of Japanese and their employes brought into camp.

The conference of Governors at Helena decided that the consolidation of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific railroads was illegal according to the constitutions and laws of Idaho, Washington, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. If this is true the consolidation can easily be prevented. All the Governors of these states have to do is to enforce their laws, and they don't have to ask the consent of any one to do it, either. If the law provides remedies let them be applied in a quiet, orderly manner, without any attempt to stir up bitterness against the railroads by appealing to popular prejudice through newspapers and by public meetings.

The report made by American missionaries and corroborated by Captain Burrows as to the atrocities practiced by Belgian planters upon the natives of the Congo Free State are too horrible in character for us to accept as true without considerable hesitation. After six years' residence in the Congo, Burrows declares that the officials employed 500 cannibals to whom they issued rifles to "massacre and capture unarmed natives who had rebelled against their brutal methods." He claims that he has sworn testimony to prove that the Belgians gave over natives into the hands of cannibals for the express purpose of being eaten. Such a condition as this is without a parallel even in the days of slavery, and if it is as reported, immediate steps should be taken to stop such dastardly crimes as have been adopted to hold the natives under subjection to a tyrannical government.

TOO WISE TO MARRY

Commenting the other day on the large decrease in marriages in Rochester in 1901, Miss Susan B. Anthony, the veteran advocate of woman suffrage, said:

"I think one reason for the decrease is the increased intelligence of women. In the old days women were married at sixteen and until they arrived at forty their one aim seemed to be to give birth to a child every year or two. The heedless of their lives was spent in hopeless toil and worry, and they became old long before their time. What this world needs is fewer children and those

better taken care of and better born and bred. "A woman who marries a man and finds out that he is a drunkard or a wicked man is committing one of the worst sins against society if she continues to live with that man. One of the greatest crimes is bringing children into the world under such circumstances. The woman should get a divorce, and see to it that she does not rush into another such alliance."

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT.

The fifth Zionist conference held at Basle, Switzerland, a few days ago, shows a decided enthusiasm in favor of the movement inaugurated by Dr. Herzl a few years ago, for the purpose of colonizing Palestine with Jewish people. The aim of the movement, as explained by Dr. Herzl, "is to create for the Jewish people a public, legally assured home in Palestine, and to that end, to adopt means for the promotion of the settlement of individual Jews in Palestine, the centralization of the entire Jewish people and the strengthening of Jewish sentiment and national self-consciousness." At first this scheme was regarded indifferently by the great mass of the Jewish people, but each year has shown progress since its beginning, and it looks as if the Jewish people might yet take enough interest in the matter to establish their descendants in the soil of the ancient fatherland.

FREE POSTAGE ON BOOKS.

A bill has been introduced in Congress permitting any free public library in the United States to send its books free through the mails to any reader reached by the free rural delivery system. While it is a fact that our mails are crowded to almost their limit with present facilities, it does not seem that any unavoidable injury would come to the system by the passage of this bill. The service can be increased and improved. The result of placing at the disposal of the people of the United States an unlimited supply of reading matter is worthy of the careful consideration of Congress. Of course limitations would have to be placed upon the size, weight and character of books in order not to have so many books moving as to delay the prompt delivery of mails. But those matters would soon work themselves out after the general plan was once inaugurated. The free rural delivery was regarded as among the impossibles a few years ago, but the past five years have demonstrated the feasibility of the scheme, and it is now as firmly fixed in our postal system as any other feature of it. The free delivery of books, if once started, would be found of such public advantage as to insure that means would be supplied for its continuance.

DEMOCRATS AT WAR.

The war goes merrily on in the Democratic party, and every day seems to place the warring factions farther apart. Tammany has bolted the regular Democratic nominee for Congress in New York, and the trouble between the Hill and Croker forces grows in bitterness as the time goes by. Croker's ambition to figure in National politics seems to meet with popular disapproval in every section of the Union, and it is not improbable that his struggle for recognition will add more difficulties for the Democratic party to surmount. Two men are being boomed for the nomination for the Presidency—Hill, of New York, and Gorman, of Maryland. Bryan is not discussed as among the possibilities for 1904, yet he has a large following which will insist on the endorsement of the Chicago and Kansas City platforms. Senator J. W. Bailey, of Texas, for many years a prominent leader in Congress, has announced that he will support Gorman in preference to Hill, in a letter made public a few days ago. The Senator says:

"Replying to your inquiry about Mr. Gorman, I assure you that he is entirely sound upon the tariff question, and although he did not fully agree with us on the financial question in 1896, he nevertheless cordially supported the ticket. I am not only strongly in favor of Gorman's nomination because I believe him the best candidate for us to name, but I am also in favor of supporting him because it now looks to me like he is the only man who can certainly defeat David R. Hill in the convention.

Hill's friends are at work all over the country in the interest of his nomination, and I think it would be a fatal mistake for our party to take as its candidate in 1904 a man who did not support the candidates in 1896."

The hope for Democracy at present seems to be in the possibility of the Republican party making a serious mistake in its policies that would be so unpopular as to cause the Democrats to lay aside their differences and unite on an issue in opposition. The prospect for Democracy at this time does not look very bright for 1904.

GERMAN ANTIPATHY TO ENGLAND.

While the German Government has seldom if ever shown such friendliness to England as during the last three months, the German populace has expressed bitter animosity. Two main reasons are assigned for this feeling. One is, that Germany has only within the period of one generation developed into a great nation—adding to its long precedence in certain departments of literature, first the repute of the leading military power in Europe, and then in very recent years an immense success in manufactures and commerce. In these last particulars its one great rival in Europe is England; whereas England is not loved. The other reason for German animosity is the South African war. Kruger, Steyn, and the Boer leaders, are not true Holland Dutch; they are of German stock; and had they been able to expel England from South Africa, affairs might have been so shaped as to tend toward a German protectorate with privileges of large value for German trade. Besides, Germany looks with hungry eyes on Holland, which little kingdom it would gladly assure of a welcome into its Empire.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.

The most potent business agency that has brought this country to the highest rank in possession of the world's trade is the American railroad. There are about 200,000 miles of railroad in the United States, a little more than two-fifths of the entire mileage of the world, which is placed at 438,348. No single country has anything near the track of this country, the combined mileage of Europe being only 168,605 miles. Seventy-one years ago there were but twenty-three miles of railroad in the United States. In the last thirty years the mileage has quadrupled. In 1882 the number of tons of freight carried one mile was 29,000,000,000. Last year, the number was 145,000,000,000. At the same time freight rates have decreased from 1.5 cents per ton a mile in 1887 to 75-100ths of a cent in 1900. During 1901 there was a larger mileage of road constructed than in any year since 1890 and the outlook for 1902 is exceedingly bright for the further development of the railway system of the country.

A most ingenious plot to kidnap Jay Gould, son of George J. Gould, was discovered the other day by the New York police. Two automobiles similar in appearance and a double of the child were to be used in the scheme. One was to attract the attention of the police, while the other was to carry young Gould. The failure of the scheme was caused by Mrs. Gould changing her mind and remaining at the opera house until late in the afternoon, when the crowds on the streets precluded an opportunity to put the scheme in operation.

Marconi makes the statement that in six months the commercial value of wireless telegraphy will be demonstrated. If the hope of the great experimenter is realized, what a great change it will bring about in present methods of communication. The revolution will be as great as that brought about in motive power by the invention of the steam engine or the discovery of gas and electricity for lighting purposes. The world is watching Marconi's experiments with much interest, and if success attends him his fame is complete.

The fidelity of the dog was demonstrated again the other day in Wyoming. A sheep herder was lost in the great storm that prevailed there a week ago. Searching parties hunted everywhere for the shepherd, but without success until they were attracted to the spot where the dead herder lay by the barking of his dogs. The dogs had remained with their master during the storm and were standing guard over his frozen body.

Palma, the President-elect of Cuba, expresses a desire for the friendship of this country. Cuba, like the rest of the Spanish American countries, will have a hard time working out the problems of free government, and the friendship of this country will be very helpful to the new government in putting into operation the constitution recently adopted and dealing with the many difficulties that will arise, both domestic and foreign.

The owners of the Coast Mail have begun the publication of a daily edition which affords the people of Marshfield and vicinity a good, newsy paper. It has a telegraphic report that should please the people of that section,

who have not before enjoyed daily news of the outside world.

Bryan in an interview yesterday reaffirmed his loyalty to the free and unlimited coinage at the rate of 16 to 1. If his faction crowds this issue in 1904 it means more trouble for Democracy; for there is an element in the party that won't stand for this antedated issue.

There are a few people in Oregon who do not want to be Governor of the state. Of the five persons named recently by the Oregonian as candidates for the nomination, two have announced that they would not accept it and have written strong letters endorsing the candidacy of Governor Geor.

With the opening of the new year the number of carriers employed in the rural free postal delivery service was raised to 6300. There are now pending 6700 applications for the extension of the service, which is increasing in popularity. It is estimated that 6000 of them will be granted by the establishment of that many new routes.

The East Oregonian is offering a great deal of advice to the Republicans of Eastern Oregon. Some of it is very good and not any of it expensive. But where are the Democrats going to get off? The E. O. should not entirely lose sight of its own party. Too much advice has been the ruin of many a man.—Heppner Gazette.

The so-called fight in Ohio between Hanna and Foraker resulted in a victory for both, just as was expected. A few Democratic papers tried to make capital out of this contest as affecting the re-election of senators from Ohio, but if they both came up now for election both would be chosen, for these is no fight on either Foraker or Hanna among Ohio Republicans.

General Bell is right. The suppression of the rebellion in the Philippines requires rigorous measures. Leniency is construed by the Filipino as weakness, as cowardice, and the policy of pacifying the people by such measures has proven a failure. It is about time other means were resorted to. The English put down the rebellions in India by lashing the leaders over the cannon's mouth and blowing their bodies into atoms. While such cruel measures as this cannot be thought of, yet that is about the only kind of punishment that appeals to the Asiatic mind.

Who will succeed Croker? This is the question that is agitating the minds of those who see the decline of the influence and power of the great Tammany chief. "The nomination of Mr. Perry Belmont in the Seventh Congress district," says the New York Sun, "sustained or unsustained by the courts, indicates another power in Tammany than that of Mr. Richard Croker, who opposed it with every possible exertion of influence. Who is it? After the death of the late John Kelly the supreme authority in Tammany had centralized itself for a long time before the personality of the new leader was disclosed. Then a triumvirate on the Napoleonic plan became known, and finally Mr. Croker emerged as the actual boss. Is there already a new centralization? And what's its name?"

DANISH WEST INDIES.

A petition signed by 800 inhabitants of the Danish West Indies has been presented to the King of Denmark, asking for reforms in the government of the islands, but protesting against the proposed sale to the United States. If the petitioners would go over to Porto Rico, or Cuba and witness the great reforms that have been inaugurated in every department of the government by the United States during the past three years, their opposition to union with this country would be removed. It is said that the King will not be influenced by the petition, and he has announced his purpose to fulfill his promise to transfer the islands to this country. The islanders will soon feel the beneficent influence of Uncle Sam's government and will prosper greatly under his directions.

INCREASED RAILWAY MILEAGE.

Last year witnessed a great increase in the mileage of railroads in the United States. Conservative estimates made from information received from every state place the increase at 4,818 miles.

As in 1900 the state which has increased its mileage the most during the year is Texas, which reports 537 miles of track laid, by sixteen different companies. Oklahoma Territory comes next in the list with 288 miles reported built during the year, and West Virginia is third with 265. Iowa, Michigan and Missouri also have built more than 200 miles apiece, and there are nine states that have built more than 100 miles, in addition to those named above, as follows: Minnesota, 175; Indiana, 164; Wisconsin, 132; Ohio, 118; Mississippi, 109; New Mexico, 106; South Carolina, 105; Louisiana, 104; and Pennsylvania, 101.

ONLY HARMONY NEEDED.

The St. Louis Republic is telling the

Democrats how to win in 1904. It says: "All that is necessary for Democratic victory in 1904 is that the party shall bring out the full Democratic vote of the United States. Harmonious organization will accomplish this. Not reorganization, as suggested by those whose ulterior purpose is disorganization, but the compact alignment of the party in a consistent Democratic formation, with every Democrat working strenuously and loyally for the Democratic cause. American Democracy was never more vital than right now. What is needed is the opportunity for its full expression."

In this appeal for harmony it will be noticed that occasion is taken to deal a heavy blow at a great number of that party who believe that a new start would be a good thing for success in the future. Abuse and calling in question the motives of others is not a panacea for discord. But these are the treatments that are being administered, and the hope for Democracy is very remote.

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DECISIONS BY SUPREME COURT

Portland's Police Commission Wins Its Appeal Case

OFFICERS, REMOVED FOR ECONOMICAL REASONS, PROPERLY DISCHARGED SAYS THE COURT

Chief Justice R. S. Bean Dissents from the Opinion of his Associates—The Davenport-Doze Case Was Reversed

In the supreme court, yesterday, opinions were handed down in cases, heretofore heard on appeal, as follows: Charles Venable, respondent, vs. the Board of Police Commissioners, appellant; appeal from Multnomah county, Hon. Alfred E. Sears, M. C. George and John B. Cleland, Judges; reversed. Opinion by Associate Justice C. E. Wolverton; Chief Justice R. S. Bean, dissenting.

This was a special proceeding to review the action of the Board of Police Commissioners of Portland in removing from office several regular policemen, without preference charges, simply because as stated in the records of the board, of economical reasons. The trial court reversed the order dismissing the plaintiff from service, and directed his re-instatement, from which judgment the board appealed. The court reviews the charter regulations regarding removal of officers, and says: "These latter regulations are restrictions upon the powers previously accorded, and are to be construed as limiting the power of removal for cause, but the power so to administer the affairs of the department as to keep the expenditures within the estimated revenues, is not thereby restricted or circumscribed. Having the power to organize the police force in the first instance, the commissioners have the power to increase or reduce it as exigencies and proper management may require, and, therefore, if the anticipated revenues are insufficient to meet the requirements of an efficient service, they may reduce the force so that the expenditures will not exceed the appropriations, if practicable." The court presumes that commissioners acted honestly in this case and did not remove the plaintiff for political reasons, and says: "The record does not disclose an excess of authority, and hence the judgment of the circuit court will be reversed and the cause remanded with direction to dismiss the writ."

In dissenting, Chief Justice R. S. Bean agrees with the above opinion regarding the power of the police commissioners, to reduce the force when the revenues demand such a course, but he says: "I think, however, that this should be done by direct resolution or order abrogating the extra officers, and not by the mere removal of the officers. As I read the charter, the board is absolutely prohibited from removing a policeman except for certain enumerated causes, which do not include the want of funds. So long as the office exists, the applicant is entitled to hold it, unless removed in the manner provided in the charter and for the cause specified. The record of the police board recites that the plaintiff and other named policemen were 'dismissed from service,' and I doubt whether it can be properly held to show an intention to reduce the force or abrogate the offices they had, especially in view of the subsequent action of the board in reappointing the dismissed persons and appointing others, without an order increasing the force."

L. J. Davenport, appellant, vs. Fred Dose, respondent; appeal from Marion county, Hon. Geo. H. Burnett, judge; reversed. Opinion by Associate Justice F. A. Moore. This action was commenced in the justice court for the 82nd district to recover balance of \$29.75, due for the alleged hauling and shipping of 10,950 bushels of grain. The defendant set up a counterclaim that the plaintiff had reported more oats purchased than

were actually received, and set up a counterclaim of \$71.40, and the answer demanded a judgment for \$44.25. The plaintiff secured a judgment, and defendant appealed to the circuit court, and at the trial there, the defendant moved for a nonsuit, and plaintiff moved for judgment on his pleadings. The defendant's motion was allowed and the action dismissed, and plaintiff appealed to the supreme court. The appellate court holds that the circuit court erred in granting the nonsuit, as there was no issue in respect to the sum admitted to be due by the answer, and there was no necessity of introducing any evidence in support thereof. The judgment is reversed and a new trial ordered.

The Singer Manufacturing Company, appellant, vs. T. J. Deiver, sheriff of Wasco county, respondent; appeal from Multnomah county, Hon. A. E. Sears, Judge; reversed. Opinion by Chief Justice R. S. Bean.

The plaintiff in this case alleged being the owner of two sewing machines, valued at \$140, which the defendant took in his possession and converted to his own use. The answer denied this, and states that one J. A. Simms was the owner of the machines and that in an attachment suit, brought by a creditor of Simms, the machines were attached by the sheriff, and later they were sold to satisfy a judgment secured by Simms' creditor. After the attachment, plaintiff notified defendant in writing of his claim to ownership of the sewing machines, and the defendant summoned a jury which found that Simms was the owner of the sewing machines. The plaintiff's reply alleged that its claim had been withdrawn before the sheriff's jury was had. In the trial court a judgment was rendered against the plaintiff and this appeal was taken. The court holds that some subsequent act of the sheriff, relying on plaintiff's withdrawal, when properly pleaded, would constitute estoppel. As no estoppel is pleaded, the court holds that the judgment must be reversed.

Dorothea Wetmore, appellant, vs. Ward C. Wetmore, respondent; appeal from Multnomah county, Hon. J. B. Cleland, Judge; affirmed. Per curiam.

This was a suit for divorce, and to compel a conveyance from defendant to plaintiff of certain real estate, alleged to have been purchased with plaintiff's money. The complaint was dismissed, and plaintiff appealed. The appellate court affirms the decision.

Other cases were decided as follows: J. C. Eukene, administrator of the estate of W. H. Mills, deceased, respondent, vs. J. W. Bismarck, appellant; appeal from Clatsop county, Hon. H. L. Benson, Judge; affirmed. Opinion by Associate Justice F. A. Moore.

Mary Elliott et al, respondents, vs. C. R. Boyd and J. T. Ross, appellants; appeal from Multnomah county—Hon. J. B. Cleland, Judge; affirmed; opinion by Associate Justice C. E. Wolverton. Major orders were made as follows: The Mary Mercantile Company, respondent, vs. R. Yanozaki, appellant; affirmed on default of appellant, and failure to pay the trial fee.

Mary Phelps Montgomery, executrix, respondent, vs. Robert Smith et al, appellants; ordered on suggestion of the death of George W. Shaver and motion of A. H. Tanner, attorney for respondent, that John R. Shaver, James W. Shaver and Albert S. Heinz, executors of his will, be substituted for said George W. Shaver, deceased, appellant, and that the decree be amended.

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