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## TODAY'S WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Forecast:  
For Minnesota and the Dakotas: Cloudy  
and threatening, with light snow; easterly  
winds.

For Montana: Cloudy and threatening;  
warmer; easterly winds.

For Wisconsin: Increasing cloudiness;  
probably followed by rain or snow in the  
afternoon; warmer; southeasterly winds.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

United States Department of Agriculture.  
Weather Bureau, Washington, March 4, 1896.  
P. M. Local Time, 3 P. M. 75th Meridian.  
Time—Observations taken at the same mo-  
ment of time at all stations.

## TEMPERATURES.

Place.	Temp.	Place.	Temp.
St. Paul	20	Minneapolis	23
Duluth	20	Winneapolis	23
Huron	22	Boston	15
Bismarck	20	Buffalo	14
Williston	14	Cheyenne	20
Flare	2	Chicago	25
Helena	12	Cincinnati	30
Edmonton	4	Helena	12
Portland	6	Montreal	12
Prince Albert	2	New York	30
Calgary	10	New Orleans	25
Medicine Hat	6	Philadelphia	25
Swift Current	4	Winnipeg	20
Qu'Appelle	8		

Below zero.

DAILY MEANS.

Barometer, 30.24; thermometer, 25; relative  
humidity, 70; wind, southeast; weather,  
cloudy; maximum thermometer, 32; minimum  
thermometer, 15; amount of rain, amount of  
rain or melted snow in last twenty-four  
hours, 0.

Notes—Barometer corrected for temperature  
and elevation.

## NEARING ITS END.

It appears, from the decision of the  
federal court at Seattle yesterday, that  
the Washington judges are not yet  
quite satisfied to end the little drama  
in which they are playing a part which  
has now become something less than  
creditable to themselves. Although it  
has been difficult at any time since  
the controversy over the Northern Pa-  
cific receivership began to account for  
the action of this court on grounds  
compatible with the dignity and im-  
partiality that are supposed to be the  
attributes of every court of such au-  
thority, yet there was some room for  
difference of opinion as to their mo-  
tives in their earliest acts, if none as  
to the wisdom of the course which they  
saw fit to pursue. To set aside a rule  
of judicial comity for no other purpose  
than to divide the managing control  
of a great transcontinental railway  
system, thereby impairing its operation  
and rendering the rehabilitation of its  
affairs difficult or impossible, was an  
act difficult of explanation. The action  
yesterday, reaffirming this position,  
in the face of an opinion rendered  
by the judges of all the circuits in  
which the property of the Northern  
Pacific lies, does not admit of any ex-  
planation at all that is creditable to  
this court or that its friends would  
care to see in print.

This decision is surprising for two  
reasons: first because of the trivial  
reasons alleged for it, and second be-  
cause it must of necessity be futile.  
The sole effect will be to keep Mr.  
Burleigh in his receivership for a few  
weeks longer, and to gather for the  
judges whatever of political capital  
they can find in a course so repugnant  
to the public interest and so at  
variance with the traditions of the  
bench. It is a very high price that  
they will have to pay for an advantage  
so trifling and so problematical. The  
decision is based, apparently, upon the  
argument that it is necessary, for the  
protection of creditors, to have a  
separate receiver in each jurisdiction  
whenever a corporation becomes in-  
solvent. This is utterly absurd. The  
court acknowledges the primary juris-  
diction assigned to the court of Judge  
Jenkins at Milwaukee. They gave  
away any case that they might have  
had in so doing. But they hold that  
this applies only to the matter of ac-  
counting. When it comes to the mat-  
ter of operation, each section is entitled  
to a receiver. It is necessary only to  
note that if this is true of Washing-  
ton, it is true of every other state  
traversed by the Northern Pacific, in  
all of which it presumably has cred-  
itors. The theory of the Washington  
court would thus call for ten separate  
receivers, each alone and supreme in  
his own jurisdiction. This is not only  
contrary to common sense and to uni-  
form practice, but it would also ef-  
fectively destroy the possibility of op-  
erating the system as a whole, wreck  
it financially, and make it easy prey to  
any one who might wish to acquire  
them. It may not be too uncharitable  
to suspect that some such object as  
this was floating in the minds of those  
who rendered the decision. The wonder  
is that, when they had reached their  
determination, they were not able to  
assign for their act some reason which  
would at least wear a specious ap-  
pearance of plausibility.

Without wasting more time on an  
argument which its authors can scarce-  
ly have expected to be taken seri-  
ously, we turn to the equally singular  
futility of their course. The Washing-  
ton judges must be aware that they  
have no power to perpetuate the anom-  
alous condition of affairs into which  
they would plunge the Northern Pa-  
cific. Its management, as now con-  
ducted, in the interest of the stock-

holders and with a marked degree of  
efficiency, will not be disturbed by the  
action of the Seattle court. The new  
phase of affairs will simply require  
a journey to the Pacific coast by the  
supreme justice assigned to that cir-  
cuit. He will hold court there, make  
an order removing Mr. Burleigh and  
appointing Messrs. McHenry and Big-  
low, and there the contest will end.  
For even Judges Hanford and Gilbert  
will scarcely care to carry their con-  
tumacy to the point that would invite  
removal by impeachment for cause. It  
is intimated that, since Judge Field's  
age would make this duty a heavy  
burden upon him, one of the other  
justices will be assigned to that circuit  
for carrying out the decision of the  
court. The supreme court of the United  
States is not in the habit of seeing its  
mandates disobeyed and its decisions  
flippantly set aside; and since the agree-  
ment of the four justices had all the  
weight of a formal decree, we may be  
sure that it will be carried into effect  
without delay. It is unfortunate that  
the western court should have chosen  
to raise to the point of scandal a  
judicial contest that ought never to  
have arisen. They must bear the re-  
sponsibility. As far as the actual fu-  
ture and management of the road are  
concerned, all practical questions were  
settled when primary jurisdiction was  
located in the Milwaukee court. The  
influences which are at work to con-  
stitute opposition to that decision will  
be as unsuccessful as they are im-  
politic and unwise.

## CHEAPER LIGHTING.

The arrangement with the city pro-  
posed by the St. Paul Gas Light com-  
pany and accepted by the board of  
aldermen last night is so much to the  
public advantage that we cannot doubt  
its ratification by the assembly. The  
net result will be, as shown by the  
Globe heretofore, a saving of about  
\$40,000 in the cost of street lighting;  
and joined with this is another large  
saving to private consumers by the  
reduction of the net price of gas to them  
from \$1.50 to \$1.30 per thousand feet.  
This is a great gain in both directions,  
and must be regarded as a satisfactory  
outcome of the agitation of the light-  
ing question that has been in progress  
for some months past.

As the bids submitted showed, the  
lowest cost to the city for street light-  
ing was to be obtained by accepting  
the bid of the gas light company for  
electric lights in district number two,  
and for gas lighting in the other parts  
of the city. For the most part this  
was not only a measure of economy,  
but was in accord with the wishes of  
the people. The central business sec-  
tion is the one best adapted to and  
most suited for the arc light system.  
The residence districts are mostly op-  
posed to it. In at least one other dis-  
trict, including a portion of the busi-  
ness section, a large portion of the  
people would prefer the arc lights; but,  
as this arrangement could have been  
secured only at the cost of the whole  
city, it was obviously necessary to  
defer the change until another season,  
and to make the best arrangement  
practicable for the present.

It was in this connection that the  
gas light company played its trump  
card. It offered, in case its bid were  
accepted for gas for the whole city,  
or for electric lighting in the one dis-  
trict and gas in the others, to make  
the reduction stated to private con-  
sumers over the entire city. Con-  
sidering the fact that this proposition  
was, as a whole, most desirable finan-  
cially on the city's part, that it could  
not be thrown aside without raising  
the whole cost of street lighting sev-  
eral thousand dollars, and that upon  
its acceptance or rejection depended  
the reduced rate for the people, the  
council would not have been justified  
in refusing so great a benefit to the  
public. The people of St. Paul have  
abundant reason to be satisfied with  
the arrangement agreed upon. It lasts  
for but a year in any event; and then,  
if more active competition appears,  
we shall be able to make still more favor-  
able terms. In the meantime the pub-  
lic is to be congratulated upon a propo-  
sition which carries with it a reduc-  
tion so material in the cost of both  
public and private lighting.

## THE SWAMP LAND GRANTS.

It is not easy to understand the atti-  
tude of the interior department in  
resisting the claim of the state to the  
swamp lands in the reservations about  
to be thrown open to set-  
tlement. The same reasons of good  
public policy that secured the adoption  
of the policy of giving these lands to  
the states to be used in facilitating  
internal improvements exist today in  
greater force than ever. The abolition  
of sales of public lands and the res-  
triction to settlement under the home-  
stead act leave these lands inaccessible  
to the public. No man will take  
land, either wholly or largely swamp,  
for a homestead as long as he can pro-  
cure dry land, nor can congress use  
them as it has so lavishly used other  
and arable lands in the past as a stim-  
ulant to the construction of railways.  
The day of land grants has, happily,  
passed, and the pity is that it ever ar-  
rived.

It is true that these lands have been  
most shamelessly and recklessly squan-  
dered in the past by the legislatures  
of this state. It is true that legislators  
have been smirched by the scandals  
growing out of the contests of rival  
companies for grants of the swamp  
lands. And, if a repetition of them  
were possible, we can understand that  
an honest administration would be  
willing to avail itself of every tech-  
nicality to withhold further provender  
for the lobbyists and their associates  
on the floor of the legislature. But  
fifteen years ago the people of this  
state, shocked by the profligacy of  
their representatives, withdrew the  
swamp lands from their control. By  
the amendment of 1881 all swamp lands  
then belonging to the state, and all  
that it might hereafter acquire, were

dedicated to the school fund of the  
state. They are "to be appraised and  
sold in the same manner and by the  
same officers, and the minimum price  
shall be the same, less one-third, as  
provided by law for the appraisal and  
sale of school lands." The same  
amendment provided that "the prin-  
cipal of all funds derived from the sale  
of swamp lands shall forever be pres-  
erved, undiminished, "one-half of  
the income to go to the common  
school fund and the remaining half to  
the educational and charitable institu-  
tions of the state.

Surely, with this safeguard, with  
every reason for the original policy re-  
maining and intensified, there should  
be no hesitation on the part of the in-  
terior department in following the pol-  
icy adopted and continued for over  
forty years. The ground that the for-  
mer acts of grant applied only to lands  
to which the United States then had  
title is too technical. The United  
States was as much the owner, under  
the French cession, of these lands as  
it is now. At most the Indians re-  
linquished only an easement in the  
lands, and their fee title was never  
more seriously regarded than as a se-  
date sort of diplomatic fiction. There  
is no good ground for distinguishing  
between the claim of the state to these  
swamp lands and its claim to the sec-  
tions 16 and 36 in each township for  
the school fund, the validity of which  
has been recognized and admitted. The  
argument of the attorney general pre-  
sented by the governor to the Indian  
bureau is a forcible and conclusive  
presentation of the claim of the state.

## ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR ITALY.

When the colonizing fever, that had  
been burning in the veins of other  
European nations, infected Italy, there  
was very little available ground left  
in Africa for her to plant her colonies  
under the thin veil of a protectorate  
over the barbarous or semi-civilized  
natives. The English, Portuguese,  
French and Belgians had taken first  
choice and swelled their territorial pos-  
sessions by conquests and protector-  
ates over the native tribes, who, how-  
ever courageous, had not the intelli-  
gence to make their force efficient nor  
the means to obtain the armament  
needed to cope with their invaders.  
England had assumed, after an ex-  
pensive and not wholly successful war,  
a paper dominion over Abyssinia, held  
by a precarious tenure and promising  
infinite trouble and expense for the  
future. It was not unwillingly there-  
fore, that when Italy felt it incumbent  
to aid in carrying civilization and re-  
ligion into the dark continent, England  
secretly consented to endow her with  
her rights, title and property in that  
rugged region, rugged in its topog-  
raphy and its people, and transferred  
Massowah and its adjacent territory to  
the mistress of the Adriatic.

It was a bad selection for Italy. She  
should have been suspicious of assum-  
ing a control that England was so will-  
ing to relinquish. It has not been the  
habit of that country to let go any-  
thing that was good or could be cheap-  
ly held. But Italy rushed impetuously  
into what she has found to be the  
largest undertaking in her history, and  
one whose success is by no means sure.

Two armies have been nearly annihi-  
lated already, and Rome howls over the  
latest and most humiliating defeat. It  
is with no Cetewayo or Lobengula  
that Italy has to deal. It is with no  
tribe of savages armed with bows and  
spears that she has to contest. Of all  
the tribes that have composed what is  
known as Abyssinia, the Shoaans are the  
most capable, intelligent, rugged and  
warlike. They trace their ancestry to  
the Bedouin Arabs, though their re-  
ligion is a medley of the Jewish, the  
Greek and the Mohammedan faiths.  
Religion has not restrained them from  
warfare, as it has not other nations  
with great pretensions; and their his-  
tory is one long story of tribal fights,  
revolutions and resistance of Moham-  
medan incursions. In addition to this  
training they inhabit a country that  
has been tossed by the convulsions of  
nature into mountain ranges with nar-  
row passes easily held, a rough, rug-  
ged country, poorly adapted to the  
maneuvers of trained troops and well  
suited to guerrilla warfare. To these  
mountain fastnesses the Abyssinians  
have always retreated, whether in their  
internecine wars or when pressed by a  
foreign foe, and it has been found im-  
possible to dislodge them. It was in  
these narrow defiles that the Italian  
army met a severe repulse a short time  
ago, and it was down the sides of  
another that the dusky hordes poured  
on the forces of Gen. Baratier a few  
days ago.

Recently King Menelik was said to  
be seeking the intervention of Russia  
to secure a treaty of peace with the  
Italians. Russian interests in Abyss-  
inia have been cultivated, and the  
similarity of religions has facilitated  
friendly relations. It was a Russian  
officer who commanded Menelik's  
forces when the former defeat was in-  
flicted on the Italians. Later advices  
were that the dervishes from the Sou-  
dan had enlisted themselves with the  
Abyssinians against the invader, and  
the tactics employed against the col-  
umns of Baratier recall those of the  
Mahdi against the English in their  
Soudanese expeditions. If the contest  
were had on ground where troops  
could be maneuvered, it is likely that  
the 40,000 well armed and drilled Ital-  
ians would be able to cope with the  
60,000 Abyssinians and their allies;  
but in a country like that where the  
contests have taken place it is not a  
question of numbers, but of position;  
and mere numbers cannot avail when  
cooped up in narrow defiles, surround-  
ed by a superior force, fighting on se-  
lected ground and against attenuated  
lines. Italian pride is stirred, and  
chagrin adds its spur, and it is prob-  
able that a strenuous effort will be  
made to subjugate the Abyssinians;  
but the war will be a long and terribly  
costly one both in money and lives, and  
the result is by no means certain. That  
such an enterprise should be under-

taken for mere glory by a country  
whose people are today the most tax-  
ridden in Europe shows how little re-  
mained the nations still are from the  
barbaric age.

## CUBAN RECOGNITION.

If, as is announced, the president  
and the cabinet have determined that  
the government should not, at the present  
time, recognize the belligerency of the  
Cuban insurgents, we think that it is  
the first serious error that has ap-  
peared in Mr. Cleveland's foreign pol-  
icy. He has managed the foreign re-  
lations of this country with admir-  
able skill and rare foresight. In the Ha-  
walian matter he saved us from what  
would have been, an appalling disgrace  
to the nation and a stain upon its  
name. In the Nicaragua case he paid  
no heed to the ridiculous demand of  
the jingoists, and taught the Central  
American republics that they cannot  
violate the usages of nations, and de-  
pend for support in a wrong position  
upon the United States. In the Ven-  
ezuelan affair he not only out of the  
ground from under the opposition, but  
achieved a triumph whose results are  
immeasurable. It is not too much to  
say that the Venezuelan proclamation  
of Mr. Cleveland established finally the  
Monroe doctrine beyond possibility of  
denial, and that it averted what might  
otherwise have become a collision be-  
tween Great Britain and the United  
States. In the case of Cuba, also, he  
has acted up to this time with proper  
deliberation. But the day has come  
when, in the interests of justice, and  
in response to the overwhelming opin-  
ion of our people, the patriots in arms  
against the Spanish government should  
be recognized as belligerents.

We admit fully, as is set forth in the  
statements sent out from Washington,  
that the existence of a belligerent party  
in any country is a question of fact.  
That question seems to us, however, to  
be settled in the affirmative. The peo-  
ple of Cuba have been for ten years in  
arms against the tyranny of Spain.  
If at different times they have yielded  
for a while to the crushing power of  
military force, it has never been either  
a voluntary submission, or a pledge of  
future acquiescence. They have always  
demanded their freedom, and for many  
months now have held their own  
against all the armies that Spain could  
send against them. If they can derive  
aid and comfort from a recognition by  
the United States, they are entitled to  
it. As we have said, it is an open  
question whether a recognition of bel-  
ligerency would prove to them the boon  
that it is commonly imagined; but they  
want it, and the people of the United  
States want to give it, and it is  
inherently right and consistent  
with our own national inter-  
ests. Under the circumstances  
as they exist, Spain is not en-  
titled to regard it as a hostile act, but  
no more. Her friendship we would bet-  
ter sacrifice rather than to permit the  
carnival of horrors which Gen. Weyler  
has inaugurated to go on forever un-  
checked.

It is not because of the declarations  
embodied in the two houses in their  
resolutions that we think the pres-  
ident should take this step. The action  
of the house of representatives, at  
least, counts for nothing. Its resolu-  
tions by mob law represent only the  
abdication of its place as a delibera-  
tive body, and its title to speak for  
the people. But independent of all  
else, simply in view of the situation as  
it actually exists today, considering  
how closely our own interests are in-  
volved, in behalf of a people strug-  
gling against unbearable ills, in the  
cause of humanity and in the name of  
liberty herself, it is due to us, as well  
as the people of Cuba, that this nation  
recognize formally a practical situa-  
tion that actually exists. Not on the  
ground of mere party ex-  
pediency, but for the sake of right,  
and following the pointing of our duty  
as a nation, we say that the adminis-  
tration should recognize the Cuban  
revolutionists as belligerents, and that  
any refusal or delay hereafter must  
be considered a blunder that falls little  
short of an offense against freedom.

AT THE THEATERS.

A. M. Palmer's company will begin a re-  
turn engagement at the Metropolitan op-  
era house tonight in "Tribby." This re-  
turn engagement will be the farewell visit of "Trib-  
by" to this city.

The sale of seats for the Salvini en-  
gagement will open at the Metropolitan this  
evening.

"In Old Kentucky" was seen at the Grand  
yesterday by two of the largest audiences  
in the history of the theater. The attrac-  
tion will undoubtedly play to big audiences  
during the balance of the week.

## FAILURE OF A FLORIST.

Louis G. Venzke Assigns to Charles  
Conrad.

Louis G. Venzke, the florist, whose  
place of business is at the corner of  
West Sixth and St. Peter streets, made  
an assignment to Charles Conrad yester-  
day for the benefit of his creditors.  
No estimate of the assets has been filed  
as yet.

## WITH INTENT TO AMUSE.

Customer—I want a ribbon for my typewrite.  
Vendor—Yes, sir. Complexion, sir? Detroit  
Tribune.

"Got on your husband's cravat, haven't  
you?" asked a neighbor of Mrs. Bilkins.  
"Yes," replied Mrs. B. "It's the only  
thing is between us now."—Harlem Life.

Wickwire—Sometimes I think it would be  
a good idea if a man could be treated like a  
horse—shot when he gets too old to work.  
Yabesley—It is pretty near that way now.  
When a man gets too old to work he is fired—  
Indianapolis Journal.

"Dr. Farley is simply wrapped up in his pro-  
fession." I should say he was. Why, they do  
say that when he proposed to Madge Willoughby  
he never squeezed her hand once, but kept  
his thumb on her pulse all the time."—Har-  
per's Bazar.

Lady at the Door—I believe in my heart you  
are the same tramp I saw a large piece of pie  
to a few days ago?—Detroit Tribune.

Tram—No ma'am; you've mistaken me. He  
said—Yonkers Statesman.

Tobacco Chewing Husband after ascending  
the stairs I saw an old fellow.  
Wife—Then kiss me, please—New York  
Weekly.

## GAS FOR \$1.30 NET.

THE COMPANY, CONDITIONALLY,  
AGREES TO REDUCE IT TO  
PRIVATE CONSUMERS.

## TERMS OF THE REDUCTION.

ENTIRE CITY TO BE LIGHTED IN  
THAT WAY AT \$23 A  
LAMP.

## ELECTRICITY FOR ONE DISTRICT.

The Board of Aldermen, After Hours  
of Debate, Take Steps to Se-  
cure Cheaper Gas.

If the assembly concurs with the  
board of aldermen in its plan on the  
city lighting bids last night, the net  
price of gas to all private consumers  
in the city of St. Paul will be reduced  
on June 1 next from \$1.50 to \$1.30 per  
thousand feet. The board of aldermen  
received this positive assurance from  
F. W. M. Cutcheon, the attorney for  
the St. Paul Gaslight company. Act-  
ing upon this assurance, the board, af-  
ter a session lasting until 11 o'clock,  
adopted two resolutions.

By the first resolution the board ac-  
cepted the proposal of the St. Paul  
Gaslight company to light the entire  
city with gas, beginning April 1, at  
the price of \$23 per lamp per year.

By the second resolution the bid of  
the gas company to light district No.  
2 with electricity, beginning May 15, at  
the price of \$89.50 per lamp per year,  
was accepted. Both resolutions instructed  
the city attorney to prepare a proper  
contract to be entered into with the gas  
company.

These two measures, simple as they  
were, were not adopted without a long  
struggle. In the first place, the board  
and the city attorney, who were in op-  
position, though aided occasionally by  
the vote of Ald. Lindahl, who appeared  
to think that the Seventh ward was  
getting the best of everything. Even  
on the second resolution Ald. Lindahl  
first voted no, which would have de-  
feated it—two-thirds of the board be-  
ing required, but he changed his mind  
after a speech by Ald. Markham, which  
went on record as the hottest that has  
ever been delivered in the council  
chamber since the present body came  
into existence.

Much of the debate was tedious  
and confused, the errors, misunder-  
standings and confusion of the board  
and the city attorney, who were in op-  
position, though aided occasionally by  
the vote of Ald. Lindahl, who appeared  
to think that the Seventh ward was  
getting the best of everything. Even  
on the second resolution Ald. Lindahl  
first voted no, which would have de-  
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ing required, but he changed his mind  
after a speech by Ald. Markham, which  
went on record as the hottest that has  
ever been delivered in the council  
chamber since the present body came  
into existence.

The board of public works, the city en-  
gineer and the corporation attorney, to whom  
were referred the bids in the various  
lighting the city with gas and electricity,  
in accordance with the specifications here-  
before prepared, have examined the same  
and report as follows:

By the specifications for lighting with gas  
it is provided among other things as follows:  
"The right, however, is reserved to said city  
to decrease from \$23 per lamp per year  
the price of gas in service and to discontinue  
any street lighting or particular number of  
lamps in service and to discontinue the  
contract for the same at any time and  
for any part of the city." The board  
of public works, the city engineer and  
the corporation attorney, who were in op-  
position, though aided occasionally by  
the vote of Ald. Lindahl, who appeared  
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