The Weekly Chronicle.

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IT IS NOT A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.

A contemporary takes THE CHRONICLE to task for saying that the United States is under no constitutional obligation to open our ports to the free exchange of commodities with our new possessions. Well, this is a question to be determined by reason and not by abuse. It will not suffice for an answer to quote the provision of the constitution that says that "all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States" unless it be first shown that the constitution, of its own force, and without any action of congress, applies to the possessions in question. Does it so apply? Then we have violated the constitution in every territory that has come into our possession since the act of 1798 establishing a territorial government for Mississipi, down to the time of the acquisition of Puerto Rico and the Philippines. More than that. We are now violating the constitution in every territory, organized or unorganized, in our possession. Congress has invariably established principles in regard to our territories that are utterly repugnant to the constitution. In what territory is the federal judiciary established according to the terms of the constitution? Why has Alaska no representation in the federal congress? How did we govern Florida and Louisiana before they became states? By what right did we maintain special tariff laws in Florida or establish Andrew Jackson, himself, in the territory as its governor, he being legislator, judiciary and executive all in one? If the constitution rules in Puerto Rico and the Philippines why are they under quasi military rule? Why are they not represented in the United States congress? If they are a part of the United States, in the sense of the constitution, why are they deprived of the right to partake in the choice of a president and vice-president? The truth is our custom has always been to pass such laws for our territories as congress deemed suitable to their condition and this right was never denied till John C. Calhoun, to fit the case of slavery, invented the doctrine that the constitution applies of its own force, apart from congressional action, to all our possessions. This doctrine Thomas H. Benton (no bad Democrat in his day) calls "a vagary of a diseased imagination" and adds that "the constitution does nothing of itself, not even in the states for which it was made. Every part of it requires a law to put it in operation. No part of it can reach a territory unless imparted to it by act of congress." We repeat, therefore, the doctrine that has called down on THE CHRONICLE the imputation of "wearing Mark Hanna's collar" and all the plutocratic paraphernalia of diseased Bryanite conception. The man who denies it is ignorant of the history of his country and ought to have the grace of silence till he is better informed.

WASHING DIRTY LINEN.

Once more—let us hope it is the last time—the dirty linen of the legislative hold-up of 1897 has been put through the public wash tub only to come out of the soak as dirty as ever, or more so. It is all ancient history, this nasty story of a nasty business. Senator Simon charges Senator Mitchell with directly causing the hold-up, when he knows better; every intelligent man in Oregon knows better. Mitchell had everything to gain and nothing to lose by the organization of the legislature. The Oregonian, with tardy frankness, admits that "it did not want the legislature to organize" because, in that case, Mitchell would have been elected. For the same reason Simon did not want the legislature to organize, and Simon, long-headed as he is, may have had other reasons personal to himself. Mr. Corbett says Mr. Mitchell spent $40,000 in the contest, but Corbett nor Simon nor the Oregonian will ever tell us where Jonathan Bourne, who was reputably bankrupt, got the money to buy every Populist in the legislature save one, as the Populist leader, U'Ren, publicly owned, and run a hotel at the same time for the grosser beasts, filled with Portland Cyprians and all the auxiliaries and ministrants of human lust. There is not a well-informed man in Oregon who does not believe that the bankrupt Bourne executed the scheme of the hold-up to accomplish Mitchell's defeat; that Joe Simon furnished the brains; that both pulled Corbett's leg, and finally, that Corbett submitted to the operation because he expected the usufruct that Simon captured at a later stage of the game. And there is not a word that Simon has said, nor a line that Corbett has written that throws a shadow of doubt on this view. The editor of this paper writes dispassionately. He was never a Mitchell man in the sense that he would or could have voted for any man who believed in the heresay of free silver. His record as an original and consistent advocate of the single gold standard, in its own small way, needs no apology, but he never can cease to believe that the measures adopted to defeat Mr. Mitchell were rotten to the core and in the highest degree un-American, un-Republican and revolutionary.

A dispatch that appears elsewhere says that Germany stands ready with troops to protect American missionaries in Shan Tung province, China. Not only that but she recently dispatched an expiditionary force to Ichon Fu for their protection. Not only that but she has actually licked a lot of hoodlums of an anti-missionary riot and arrested and punished the ring-leaders. This beats banagher. What is the country coming to anyway? What can Bryan and Sulzer and Pettigrew be thinking of? If this thing lasts and Bryan isn't elected next fall we will have "secret treaties" and friendly relations with every country on the globe.

The present generation need not concern itself about the political status of the inhabitants of our new possessions. It will be time enough to cross that bridge when we come to it. The acts of annexation did not make them citizens and they may never be made citizens in the sense that would permit them to take part in the government of the states. We have governed New Mexico as a territory for half a century. We may, if it be judged fit, govern our new possessions in the same way for twice half a century. By that time the entire generation of antis will have died and gone to—heaven, let us hope.

Democratic senators, it is said, very much fear that the final result of the Puerto Rican difficulty will be the passage of the government bill with the tariff features left out. The leaders would much prefer to vote against the tariff and have the bill passed with that feature retained. They want campaign material and they want it bad. This is Democratic politics in the year of our Lord 1900.

Dufur four years ago was a red-hot center of the free silver mania. Today, according to the report of one who knows every man in the precinct, two only are suspected of clinging to the fallacy and of these one is a socialist, and therefore not responsible, while the other says nothing and will, it is more than probable, vote right when the time comes.

It is said that if the Prohibitionists of Oregon put a ticket in the field it will have to be by petition, as under the Oregon law they failed to cast the necessary 3 per cent vote to entitle them to be considered a party organization.

The faithful at Eugene want to hear Bryan but they are informed that that luxury will cost them $220. Spellbinding of the Bryan brand comes high.

Paint your house with paints that are fully guaranteed to last. Clarke & Falk have them.

A PERVERTER OF WORDS.

We are decidedly grateful, says our Court street contemporary, that The Chronicle takes the position that the constitution of the United States, that document on which the union of states was founded, stands for nothing.

You are, are you? When did THE CHRONICLE say anything that the most perverted, Bryanite ingenuity could construe in this manner? Is this your answer to THE CHRONICLE'S contention that the constitution does not, and never did, follow the flag of its own force, and never went, in whole or in part, to any territory of the United States till congress sent it there? THE CHRONICLE says "the constitution stands for nothing," does it? THE CHRONICLE says "damn the constitution," does it? Be it known to you, O you perverter of words you cannot answer, that THE CHRONICLE has more reverence for the constitution than any Bryanite outside the domain of Pluto.

It is announced that Carlz Schurz will support Bryan. Good! If Bryan will survive that kind of a blow he may live to be emperor of the Sulus.

Death of Robert Jenson Staats.

Died, Sunday, March 18, 1900, at the residence of Hon. H. H. Dufur, of Ramsey precinct, Robert Jensen Staats, son of the late John G. Staats, a pioneer resident of the Dufur neighborhood, aged 27 years. The deceased had suffered long from consumption and had returned, a short time before his demise, from Pasadena, Calif., whither he had gone in hope of relief. On his return he was taken to the home of Mr. Dufur where all that medical skill and motherly care could do was tendered him till the end came. He leaves two brothers, W. H. and J. W. Staats, of Ramsey, and Emma, an unmarried sister, residing in Portland.

The funeral, which took place Monday, was attended by the residents of the neighborhood for miles around, all the business houses in Dufur were closed, out of respect for the deceased, and even the schools were closed for half the day.

Robert Jenson Staats was a young man of high moral character and of steady and industrious habits. He had the respect and esteem of all who knew him.

T. J. Maupin, one of Hon. H. H. Dufur's rangers on the Bull Run district, writes to Mr. Dufur under date of March 20, saying that he had just been up Mt. Hood as far as the crater and that there is very little snow on the mountains this year, and south of Mt. Hood hardly any at all. Mr. Yocum, who lives at Government Camp, told Mr. Maupin that he has not seen as little snow in the mountains at this time of the year in 20 years. Wild flowers are in bloom and the grass is growing rapidly. One week of good weather, Mr. Maupin thinks, will take all the snow off the Barlow road. At Government Camp only 12 inches remained, while from the toll gate to Laurel Hill was as dry as timber. There is no snow on the Bull Run reserve and very little around it. Mr. Maupin expects the Barlow road to be open for travel about the first of April.

Everybody here knows of the kindergarten school conducted by Miss Anna Taylor in the vestry back of the First Baptist church building. Irene Poling, the little daughter of Rev. D. V. Poling, attends the school. She is a particularly bright and observant little body; smart as a whip and the cutest kind of a chip off the old block. Miss Taylor was explaining the other day to the little folks the mysteries of the American flag. She told them that every star meant a state; that there were 45 stars on the flag and that for every new state added to the original thirteen, a new star was added to the flag. Irene's eyes brightened and her little hand went up. "What is it Irene?" asked the teacher. "Please Miss Anna, wont we soon have a new star on the flag?" "Why, my dear?" asked Miss Taylor. "On account of Shaniko," was the answer.

If anybody has any lingering suspicion that this Eastern Oregon of ours is only fit for stockraising or that it does not do a little farming once in awhile on the side, he ought to take a trip to the country back of the Blalock farm in Gilliam county. Ex Governor Moody went up there yesterday to look at a piece of land he has owned for some time, which he has rented to Smith Bros. While there he saw—in one field if you will—the Smith Bros. with eleven ten-horse teams, cultivating and seeding summer fallow at the rate of ten acres a day for each team, or one hundred and ten acres a day for the eleven teams! Think of it, ye cultivators of two-by four wheat patches on the Willamette, and ye, too, subjects of an effete civilization in the far east. We're in the farming business out here, I tell you. That's what we are.

Fresh cracked Nebraska corn at the Wasco warehouse. Finest kind of chicken feed. mch25-tf

SHOULD COAL GIVE OUT.

Electrical Energy and Natural Forces Would Supply Plenty of Power.

Are we utterly dependent upon coal, so that the wheels of industry will stop and the forests be consumed for fuel when coal gives out? Of course not. It is an idle fear. Already we have the beginnings of a new method of utilizing natural energy which will prove enormously more effective than coal ever has been, and will be practically inexhaustible to whatever extent industry may expand, says Gunton's Magazine.

Electrical energy, developed by water power, will run the world's industries, furnish its light and heat, and be the universal substitute for all forms of combustion methods. Water power is practically unlimited, and it will be utilized more and more in proportion as the need for it arises and as it becomes, at different places and at successive periods, cheaper than coal. The substitution will proceed gradually, until, when the coal supply finally is exhausted, nobody will have anything more than a curious or academic interest in the matter, and probably not a ripple will be produced in the steady onward flow of the world's industry. As the use of water power to develop electrical energy increases to the point of formidable competition with coal, electrical students and inventors will doubtless bring out improvements making it possible to store the power or conduct it long distances at small cost, until our factories, railroads and ships can be operated by it, our houses lighted and warmed and food prepared, all at even less expense than is possible to-day with coal.

SPRUCE TIMBER SCARCE.

Paper-Makers May Be Driven to the Use of Some Other Wood or Material.

The forthcoming report of S. W. Matthews, commissioner of labor for the state of Maine, will contain a chapter devoted to the pulp and paper manufacturing of the state. A table will be published showing the acreage of spruce timber lands in Maine, the amount of that wood used each year for manufacturing paper and give other data concerning the industry. The commissioner will also urge the adoption of some other material, if possible, from which news paper can be made, says the New York Times.

Maine people are much agitated over the fast depletion of the state forests by paper makers, and it is possible that a bill will be introduced in the next legislature prohibiting the cutting of spruce for a term of years. It is hoped that by this method the forests will have a chance to gain lost ground in season to prevent the complete extermination of that valuable tree. The paper-makers are, therefore, doing much thinking as to what course to pursue, and it is likely that before long they will substitute poplar or birch for spruce timber.

An experiment now being made in Missouri with cornstalks for making paper is being watched with interest here. It is said that thus far fair success has been made with that material and a good quality of paper has been made. Much of the timber cut in Maine goes to New Hampshire, where one mill alone turns out 240 tons of paper each day from spruce timber.

A HIGH PRICED PIANO.

One That Was Made for a Famous Belgian Artist at a Cost of $25,000.

A wonderful piano has been made by Jan Van Beers, the Belgian artist, whose portraits of beautiful women are famous. The painter owns one of the most remarkable houses in Paris and has given years to the study of interior decoration, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. He admits that the exquisite instrument which he is going to exhibit at the exposition next summer is probably the most beautiful piano of ancient or modern times. Of course, only the shell or case is his work; whose make the instrument shall be will be determined by the purchaser. The body of the piano is of natural wood, tinted green; the legs, garlands, Cupids and all the ornamentations are of bronze, gilded and chiseled by the ablest sculptor of Louis Quinze bronzes in Paris. The fine sketches which appear on the sides and on the front of the piano are paintings by the artist himself and represent the four seasons, and a minuet danced in the park in the days of Louis XV., all after the manner of Watteau.

The designer has tried as far as possible to convert those parts of the piano which are ordinarily ungraceful and awkward into something decorative and harmonious. The pedals, which generally represent a lyre, are replaced by the owner's initials. One bronze Cupid, at the touch of a spring, offers his violoncello as a support for the cover when open. This cover is lined with small plaques of ivory, each surrounded by a Louis Quinze frame of bronze, where some day distinguished musicians will write their names, using for this purpose the sheath and arrow of a Cupid at the left, which have been ingeniously converted into inkstand and pen. The music, resting on a small frame of bronze, which glides forward upon a spring, is lighted by two delicate electric flowers, and the musician is thus left in an agreeable half-light. The total cost of the piano will not be less than $25,000.

Mules for Sale.

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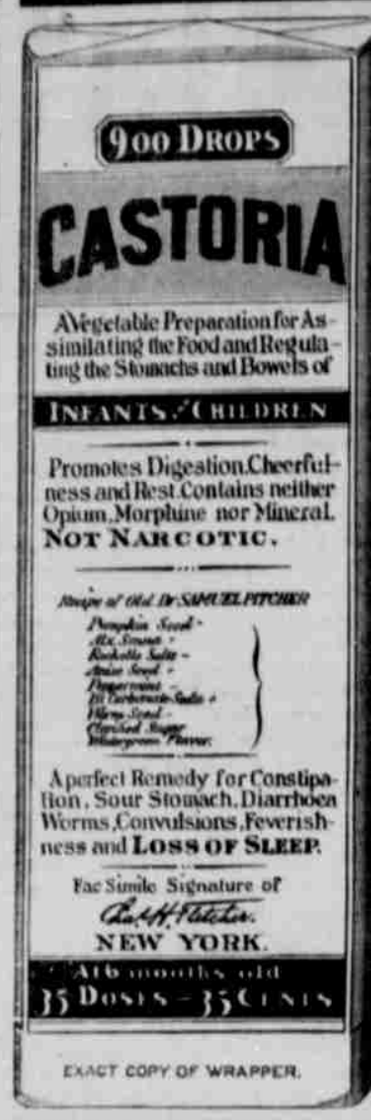

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