

The Weekly Chronicle.

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BOSSSES AND BOSSISM.

The work of bossism begins at the primary, for this is the only pure democracy that exists in our representative form of government, and reformation should begin here, in Oregon, as well as elsewhere. The legislature next winter should pass a primary election law, one that would insure the choice of the individual voter controlling the nominees of the county, district and state conventions. This would free the people, in a measure, from the control of party bosses.

The American system of politics has developed, or rather evolved a class of creatures known as "bosses," and these wield a most despotic sway over those who attach themselves to either party for the personal and pecuniary advantages to be derived. These cringing, subservient beings, upon whom the boss depends for success of his schemes, are time-servers in every regard, and would constitute the servile population in all countries. They would never have stood in the ranks of Runnymede to demand of King John and, if necessary, die for Magna Charta liberties; they would not have opposed the Star chamber of Charles I., or signed the Declaration of Independence with the revolutionary patriots.

The boss himself is generally a creature of craft and cunning, and studies more the art of treachery and duplicity, fully illustrated in the half-savage races, than the higher qualities of civilization and intelligence. He is not a statesman, but simply a vulgar boss, who uses a club against opponents and never argument. He can never be a leader, because he studies methods for controlling his satellites and never principles of government which will better the masses and ameliorate their condition.

Our country in theory is a government of the people, by the people and for the people; but in fact it is a government by the machine, of the machine and for the machine; and behind the machine is the little boss and the big boss, who puts all the wheels in motion, greases the cogs, and then sets the apparatus moving to grind out whomever or whatever he wants in candidates or platforms of principles. Then the party whip is applied, and the boss-doped citizen bares his back and cringes under the lash. This is not liberty. It is tyranny of the worst kind, and more despicable, under the conditions, than any that has ever disgraced the sultan of Turkey or the czar of Russia. Those are autocratic governments, and the one-man power is fully understood and expected. No people can be free under such a system, and patriotism loses its meaning.

The people are subservient to the slate-makers, and the slate-makers are subservient to their own personal desires and personal greeds. Every party boss, or slate-maker as he may be properly termed, constitutes himself the conscience of the people, and if the public are outraged in any way, they must bear their chagrin and disappointment in silence, and must meet the petty tyrant with smiles and kiss the hand that smote them. What is patriotism and who are the patriots under such circumstances? The rule of bossism is not patriotism, for they would trample under foot every vestige of individual liberty to accomplish their purposes. They must own their followers, body and soul. Neither are the bosses patriotic; for they are frequently men not of the highest intelligence or of the purest motives. They are generally creatures of craft and cunning, who have studied the arts of deception and duplicity, and are usually adepts in the elements of character that are despised by honorable and upright men. The people are not patriotic, who allow themselves to be ruled and tyrannized by these creatures of craft and greed, and while this condition of affairs exist true patriotism and true patriots are lulled to sleep by false and treacherous sirens.

The delineation of bosses and bossism is absolutely impersonal, and may or may not be applicable to any community from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific coast, or from the great lakes to the gulf; and it may be too highly or too lightly colored to be artistic; or it may lack in pose or outline to be a perfect picture. It may be simply a sketch; but we are satisfied that the American mind is impressed with the lineaments, that we are on the eve of a mighty revolution, when the spirit of patriotism shall be aroused and the people in their might, at the ballot-box, shall sever the chains that bind them to bosses and bossism, and be what the fathers of the republic intended each citizen should be, individually and inherently free. Then the voice of the people shall be the voice of liberty, and tyranny of every kind shall be unknown in the great republic of the western continent.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

The free-and-unlimited-coinage-of-silver plank in the Democratic platform adopted in Kansas City is as prominent as any one in that declaration of principles, and it is a well-known fact that Mr. Bryan would not have accepted the nomination for president without the convention unequivocally endorsed his views on the money question. This is a nut for the gold Democrats to crack, for as sure as they vote for Mr. Bryan they endorse his unsound views on finance, and if they swallow the pill compounded by the Kansas City convention they swallow the 16-to-1 coinage ratio the same as the anti-trust and anti-imperialism ingredients of the mixture. There is no mistaking this issue in the next campaign. It has been forced to the front by Democratic leaders, and it will be kept there. Notwithstanding the fact that by an overwhelming majority the American people four years ago buried this fallacy, as it was thought at that time, beyond the power of resurrection, it has been dug out of its dishonored grave, and now, with its grave clothes on, it is pushed again into prominence to do its duty during the campaign and meet its usual fate at the polls in November.

If Democratic editors and Democratic leaders are honest in their assertions that this is a dead issue, and that other questions of vital importance will be the leading ones in the coming presidential campaign, why was it incorporated in the platform, and why was the apostle of free silver, Mr. Bryan, chosen to lead the hosts this fall? These questions must be answered on the stump, and it is advisable for all gold-standard Democrats who have returned to the old party to consider, if by voting for Bryan they are not stultifying themselves and supporting a national candidate and a national platform which are diametrically opposed to their honest, conscientious opinions?

The condition of the legations in Peking is still shrouded in mystery, and those acquainted with the situation expect when the gates of the capitol of China are opened to the relieving forces of Europeans and Japanese, or when authentic news is received, the horrors of Cawnpore, in comparison, will be mild and almost merciful. It is terrible to think of the fate of the women and children, left almost defenseless, to the fury of these fanatical and merciless Asiatics. There will be a terrible reckoning with these Chinese; but this will not assuage the grief of relatives and friends, or mitigate the awful fate that befell mothers, wives and daughters during the hellish massacre.

If the powers should partition China, the United States may not want any share of the territory; but our commercial interests should be carefully guarded, and we should join with England in demanding an open door for our products. It is time enough to consider this question,

and the most important one at present is the relief of the legations at Peking and the punishment of the Boxers for their outrageous treatment of foreigners. As Americans we respect our flag, and desire its protecting influence over all citizens wherever they may be. American missionaries have been murdered, and our minister at Peking grossly mistreated. China must make reparation for these outrages, and an American army will see that this is done speedily. In this we have a common cause with England, Germany, France and other nations, and when the walls of Peking are scaled American valor will be as conspicuous as that of any other nation. We may not believe in land-grabbing, but we do believe in the sacred immunity of the life and property of American citizens wherever they may be.

THE COUNTRY PRESS.

It is estimated that three-fourths of the people of the United States live in the country and the country towns. To this fact is due the strong hold the country press retains on the American public, says the Review. The weekly country paper is more eagerly sought than the daily paper from the city, because it comes home more closely to the people it serves. It tells them, more thoroughly than the city paper can hope to do, of the affairs and the happenings of their environment.

Nor is the influence of the rural weekly confined to the country. Much the larger part of the city population comes from the farm. The city merchant, banker and professional man cling to the old "home paper." Many years after the old ties are broken, you will find it upon their desks. It is the remaining tie that binds them to their boyhood home and boyhood companions. Week after week it comes from the old place, with its burden of news and sentiment. It has a story of never-ceasing interest. And no matter what measure of fame or fortune the game of life may bring to the country-bred boy, the time never comes when he loses all interest in its chronicles. When the day's duties are ended, and the household has grown quiet in the still watches of the night, he loves to sit by the fire-side, and reading the columns of the old home paper, live over, in fancy, the happy, heedless days of his youth. It tells him a hundred things—of his old sweethearts, the success of this companion, the failure of that; the rise of poor boys; the downfall of one whose youth was showered with the golden sunshine of opportunity. To stranger eyes, the little weekly from some distant state seems dreary and commonplace; but he reads between the lines; he sees behind the scenes. The smallest item may carry a romance, and even the advertisements unfold their stories.

The country weekly fills a want common to every state in the union. It is one of our American "institutions." How many newspapers, think you, the single young state of Washington supports? Two hundred and twenty-one, and a big campaign crop in harvest, and all but fifty or twenty of these are weeklies. Oregon has 192; Montana, 92; Idaho, 70.

What a story these figures tell of the country's expansion and the growth of the population since the quiet colonial days when Ben Franklin's prudent father refused to help him start a weekly paper, because "there were already two newspapers in America, and a third was not wanted."

The New York World quotes "a well known democratic banker who declined to permit the use of his name," as saying: "I am offering to bet three to one that Bryan will not receive 4,000,000 votes this year, as against 6,500,000 in 1896, and I find no takers." If that banker has any existence beyond the fevered imagination of the World reporter, he is talking nonsense. The country is full of democratic money that would jump at a chance to give him odds of three to one on that estimate of Bryan's vote.

Ladies' tan oxfords—sizes 3 to 5—only 90 cents at the New York Cash Store.

The Crook County Cloudburst.

Speaking of the cloudburst which occurred on Cherry creek, June 23d, and referred to in Friday's CHRONICLE, Mr. Shrum says:

A funnel-shaped cloud appeared at the head of the creek. This cloud kept swaying from east to west like an enormous balloon, from 9 o'clock in the morning until about 11, when the mighty storm burst. Calling to my sons I warned them. The boys were just beginning to cut the first crop of alfalfa on the lower meadow, having gone about ten rounds. The roar of the hail up the creek, twelve miles away, could then be heard, and the men left for shelter with the horses. In a shorter time than it takes to tell, the avalanche of water, rocks and logs struck the first ranch, clearing out everything. Then on down the creek it came, covering every alfalfa meadow with sand, and all the other debris that comes with a flood. At 11 o'clock on the morning of June 23d, I had 500 tons of growing alfalfa fit for the sickle. At 12 o'clock I had nothing. About \$5000 worth of hay, several hundred bushels of apples, grapes and other fruit, all the potatoes and garden truck, every pane of glass in four houses, a couple of wagons, a mowing-machine, etc., went to join the great majority of flotsam and jetsam, that will strewn the bank of the John Day and Columbia, from the mouth of Cherry creek to the sea.

Nor is Mr. Shrum the only sufferer. James Wagner, Mrs. Good and James Connelly also have had every vestige of their crops destroyed, and the usual damage done. Connelly in particular was badly damaged. He had just purchased a fine alfalfa ranch above his home place from Pat Fagan, for \$5000. After the watery ruin came, the place could be valued at \$25. Mr. Connelly's home ranch, the finest to be found amongst the many fertile bottoms of the John Day, was also badly damaged, covered with sand to a depth of three or four feet. Curiously no dwelling-house was swept away in the rush, although Warner's had a narrow escape, the creek bed being washed until it now forms a bank twenty feet sheer, with the house on the edge.

New Course Added to High School.

At a recent meeting of the school board it was decided to strengthen the present course of study in the High school, and the English course, which requires three years, will be as follows. Those who enter at the middle of the year will require three years and a half to complete this course:

- FIRST YEAR: First half—Algebra, grammar, English classics, physical geography. Second half—Algebra, rhetoric, English history, botany. SECOND YEAR: First half—Algebra, English classics, Greek history, geology. Second half—Geometry, English classics, Roman history, political economy. THIRD YEAR: First half—Geometry, English literature, American history, physics. Second half—High arithmetic, English literature, American history, physics. Rhetoricals once each half term.

A special course has also been added, which will give students an opportunity to prepare for the state university or other similar institutions. This will require four years, and is as follows:

- FIRST YEAR: First half—Algebra, grammar, German, English classics, *book-keeping. Second half—Rhetoric, German, English history, *book-keeping. SECOND YEAR: First half—Algebra, English classics, Latin, Greek history, physical geography. Second half—Geometry, English classics, Latin, Roman history, botany. THIRD YEAR: First half—Geometry, English classics, Ctesar, medieval history, geology. Second half—Geometry, English classics, Ctesar, modern history, political economy. FOURTH YEAR: First half—High arithmetic, English literature, Cicero, American history, physics. Second half—Review, English literature, Cicero, American history, physics. *Optional.

Should Be Investigated.

EDITOR CHRONICLE:—There are a number of questions regarding the morals of The Dalles, which seem to be entirely overlooked by the officers of our city, and one in particular the people of the middle hill feel that the authorities should look into and, if their suspicions can be proven, put a stop to. I refer to the characters of a man and woman who it is believed are living in direct violation of the law of the land, their abode being near the garrison. Not only do we consider such to be the case; but worse, young girls are continually enticed in companionship with them, which will undoubtedly be their ruin.

Should not something be done to put a stop to such proceedings?

AN OBSERVER.

Help Wanted.

Two girls, who are willing and competent to help, can obtain work by applying at the steam laundry, Nons but those who are worth the hiring need apply.

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