

OREGON MIST.

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AN OBJECT LESSON.

According to the statement of Mr. A. B. Hammond, of the Astoria railroad, his company saved about \$140,000 by purchasing the steel rails needed for the road in a foreign market. This amount is the supposed difference in the cost of manufacture between this and foreign countries. Had the McKinley law remained in force and effect, not only would the difference between the cost here and abroad have been kept at home, but the total cost of the rails would have been paid to some factory in this country where the money would remain, and our laboring men would have received in wages more than the difference stated. It is true the railroad company would not have saved so much money, but thousands of our people would have had the privilege of earning bread in the manufacture of the goods. Under operation of the Wilson law, however, it is plain to be seen that England, with cheap labor can close our furnaces and drive those anxious to toil for bread into the streets and to idleness. What plainer lesson on behalf of the protective system do we need than this one under our personal observation. Or, in the language of Mr. Horr, "if you buy the rails in England, England has the money and you have the rails; but if you buy the rails in this country you have the rails and your brother who toils has the money; thus by the latter method both the money and rails are possessed in this country; don't you see."

THE APPROACHING CAMPAIGN.

State, district and county politics can be heard in the distance, and it will be but a short time until it will be the all absorbing topic for discussion. There will probably be no special contest for the supreme judgeship, since it is almost certain that Judge Bean desires to succeed himself on the supreme bench of the state, and, being very popular, will probably have no opposition. The contest for congressional honors in the two districts, however, will, as usual, be interesting. In this district there are always candidates to spare, and heretofore all have been put forward by Eastern Oregon. It is probable, however, that Portland will supply any shortage that might occur in congressional aspirants this year. Heretofore Multnomah county has conceded the congressman to the outside counties, and that delegation has cast its solid vote in convention for the man from the rural districts who developed the most strength, but from the best advice obtainable, after having lost one senator last winter, Portland will now claim the new member to the lower house from the Second district, and if Eastern Oregon goes into the convention divided as heretofore the chances are very largely in favor of a Portland man. In the First district Congressman Hermann will have a very strong opposition to combat. Indeed Hermann's stock seems away below par just at this writing, largely by reason of his failure to become the chairman of the house rivers and harbors committee. Had he succeeded in securing that much coveted prize there would have been little doubt as to his success for re-nomination. But as matters now stand very few are willing to admit that his chances are encouraging. Hon. Thomas H. Tongue, of Washington county, seems to be the most prominently mentioned for Mr. Hermann's place. Marion county also, has several aspirants for the place, among them being T. T. Geer and C. B. Moore, ex-speakers of the house of representatives, and Tillman Ford, all of whom are well known over the state. Senator Brownell of Clatskanie county is also favorably spoken of in connection with the congressional nomination. Then again, there is the district attorney, the joint senator and the member of the state board of equalization for this district, candidates for all of which are being discussed more or less, and for the two places first named there are at present a number of candidates already in the field, but the general tendency of sentiment among these aspirants, as well as those seeking county positions, is to wait until after the meeting of the central committees of the several counties before beginning an active canvass. Chairman Warren, it is understood, will call a meeting of the county central committee sometime about the first of February, and from that time forward until the county convention is held aspirants for the different places will be found without the use of a telescope. It is not generally believed that outside of the nominations for county judge and representative there will be much opposition in the county convention, and even these two places on the ticket may be filled by acclamation when the time comes. Harmony should prevail at all events, and good men only placed upon the republican ticket, which, in view of the overwhelming republican victories and the late tendency toward republicanism all over the country, would mean nothing short of an election. In order that the very best men may be selected for the several offices to be filled it would be well for the different republican clubs of the county to renew their meetings and begin to discuss the different candidates they desire to see placed in the different positions. The time is opportune for such work, and especially should the most thorough organization be effected, since the national election follows closely in the wake of the election held in June next. No little commotion was manifested here last Friday when it was learned that those who had purchased lieu-land script and supposed they were in actual possession of certain tracts of land, found their claims had been held for cancellation at the general land office. The letter from the state land agent, however, very clearly explained how the fraud had been perpetrated. But there was little satisfaction in this to those who had lost

their money. It is thought by some that the money can be recovered, since it is claimed that the principals to the transaction are able to make the losses good. The amount of these speculations is variously estimated at from \$50,000 to \$80,000, and very few people believe the sales of scrip was made in good faith, in fact it seems impossible that the script dealers could have any other than a dishonest motive, and if this be true there will be small chance to recover the losses, for they will no doubt have sufficiently covered up their tracks to be beyond the law's reach.

THE VENEZUELAN COMMISSION.

The fact should be kept in mind that the commission appointed by President Cleveland in the Venezuelan case will not have the authority or attributes of a tribunal for the conclusive adjustment of a controversy. It can do nothing that will be binding upon Great Britain, of course; and even our own government will not necessarily be bound by anything that it may do. The scope of its power is restricted to the investigation of the facts relating to the boundary line dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela, and its report is expected to show where, in its judgment, the line ought to be. Its decision on this point will probably be accepted by our government, and as that decision is reasonably certain to be different from the claim made by Great Britain, another request for arbitration will be made. That is to say, Great Britain will not be asked to modify or relinquish her claim according to the findings of this commission; but the fact that reason is thus furnished for doubting the validity of her claim will be urged upon her as a positive and sufficient argument in favor of the submission of the matter to competent and impartial arbitrators, for the purpose of avoiding, and preserving the friendly relations that now exist between the several nations that have an interest in the settlement of the main question. There will be nothing further done in the case by our government until after the completion of the work of the commission. As the case now stands Great Britain has pre-emptively declined to arbitrate, and has also questioned our right to interfere for the protection of any interests of ours that may be involved. This commission is to act as a board of inquiry, properly speaking, with a view of ascertaining in a definite way what encroachment is proposed by Great Britain, and to what extent, if any, the Monroe doctrine is likely to be violated. That will give us a distinct basis of action, and a practical justification for such additional proceedings as may be necessary to prevent a contemplated wrong and to defend and maintain a vital principle. It will then be for Great Britain to say how the difficulty shall be adjusted. There is some reason to believe that when she comes to consider the report of our commission, and the determination of our government to stand by it, she will consent to an arbitration, and thus put an end to all danger of war. The whole responsibility will be thrown upon her; and the result will be such as she chooses to make it. There is no desire for war on the part of the American people if it can be honorably avoided; but they will insist upon the strict observance of the Monroe doctrine, let the consequences be either pleasant or unpleasant.

An inland route for torpedo boats along our Atlantic coast is a highly important aid to the defense of our seaports. A quick concentration at threatened points can thus be effected, and a hostile ship approaching our shores will have to exercise the utmost vigilance at night or its hull will be blown open by a high explosive. The Casbing, now on its way from New York to Washington by interior canals, has already made several trips on inland waters. Last spring she steamed from Norfolk, Va., to Jacksonville, Fla., without going to the open sea except for one stretch of 200 miles. It is well to remember, when naval affairs are under discussion that torpedoes have not yet been proved to be less formidable to a fleet than a fleet is to a vigorously defended seaport.

The days of great emigration to the West is over. The tide is flowing south. People who are in search of homes are going south. Thousands who have been battling with the cold of the Dakotas are now seeking a more equable climate, and Alabama seems to be the choice at present. The West must exert itself if the homeseekers are to be attracted.

The fact that Russia stands ready to aid the United States with ships and money in a possible war with England cannot fail to keep Lord Salisbury's mind in a condition of healthy hesitation about pushing the Venezuela question to the fighting point.

The United States had but a small navy in 1812, but the havoc it created among the ships of the Mistress of the Sea was simply phenomenal. The history of the American victories on the ocean during that war reads like a romance.

A Confident American.
LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 28.—Although he is 86 years old, Cassius M. Clay, the hero of many hard-fought battles for abolition in Kentucky, and Lincoln's war minister to Russia, in an interview declares congress should issue \$1,000,000,000 of 100-year bonds, put a tremendous army in the field and take possession of Canada, saying to the Canadians that they could come into the United States peacefully if they would, but come they must. He would ask all the South American republics to join to put down European tyranny, would offer amnesty to all ex-Confederate soldiers and sailors, would fortify the seaports cities as rapidly as possible, and should a British fleet overpower any one of them he thinks such a city, like Moscow, should be fired so that the British, upon landing, would be greeted with only brick and mortar. He thinks that Russia would jump at the opportunity of war between this country and England to annihilate the Turks, and between the absolutism of Russia and the democracy of America, Great Britain, the "old robber of the sea," would be wiped off the map.

REPUBLICAN SENATE CAUCUS

Considering Amendments to the Tariff Bill.

Free Coinage Measure Discussed at Length by the Prominent Members.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The feature of the republican senatorial caucus held today was a discussion of the advisability of amending the house tariff bill by adding a free-coinage amendment to it in the senate. This discussion was confined to the free-coinage wing of the party. The result of the meeting was the adoption of Quay's resolution, introduced yesterday, expressing the sense of the senate caucus to be that the finance committee should report the bill as it came from the house, with a few verbal changes which will not alter the meaning of the measure in any essential feature. There was no roll-call upon this, but there were a few dissenting voices. There was no formal effort to bind the senators to support the bill when it should come before the senate, and it was left open to amendments at that stage of the proceedings. It was while the advisability of attempting to secure a pledge of support was under consideration that the silver question came up. It was sprung by a question as to what the silver republicans would do in case a free-silver amendment should be offered to the tariff bill in the senate. Mitchell of Oregon was the first to respond to this inquiry. He said he would join the silver forces in an effort to secure the adoption of a free-coinage substitute for the house bond bill, but that with the silver question disposed of in that connection, he would advise that the silver republicans refrain from participating in any effort which might be made to amend the tariff bill by adding a free-coinage provision. There was a general expression of opinion that the bill, whether amended or un-amended in the senate, never would become a law. Several senators expressed the opinion that it could not receive executive sanction. **Opposed to War.** COLUMBIA CITY, Jan. 1, 1896. EDITORS MIST:—We are surprised and disappointed at congress being so easily deceived by the president's message on the Venezuelan question. It seems to us the document was intended for another purpose foreign from the one produced upon the people, to-wit: "apparent loyalty to this government, and a hostility to England to disabuse the minds of our people, it seemed necessary especially, to unite the North and South, politically, and also upon the wisdom and justice of issuing bonds and retiring greenbacks and the Wilson bill." From the tone of congress it appears they were worked for all that was out, and that perdy wins. Our people are now suffering for the bread of life, for the reason that the gold has been absorbed by Europe and Wall street, New York, and silver, our great resource, positively demonetized by law, but not justice. Show us the law that changes the ratio between silver and gold; can't do it. These hard times, with silver depreciated and retiring paper money will complicate the banking system and make them less scarce and hope will depart without revenue. We want to call your attention to another fact more potent than the laws of money. When we take a retrospective view of the destructive warfare that has cursed mankind for six thousand years, swallowed up Pharaoh's hosts, blotted out the Grecian and Roman empire, ushered in the darkest ages of eight thousand years, and now death to christian Armenians by the Turks and our fraternal war, the principal causes being the love of gain, ambition and the difference in religions, which is all foolishness, for, in fact and in truth, there is but one religion, and that is embodied in the Ten Commandments. And now, to close, to think for a moment of England and America, with past experience in this rapid age of advancement, knowledge, christian science and apparent devotion, to go to war, a step backward toward barbarism, it causes one to question the existence of a God. The two great and the only English-speaking peoples on earth, with their truer christian principles more than all the world combined, it would, in truth, destroy the faith and hope in heaven and enlarge the confines of hades. We are in the swim, we must not we dare not, do as the world has done, human reason teaches us that we must come and live together in harmony, in unison with the physical universe of the lapse of time (with our stars) we can grow wiser and better by work and charity, there is no room for doubt, otherwise we ought and will be lost, to all eternity. Let us, this year in this life, do as we know we ought to. Then the objects of life and our creation will have been accomplished. C. G. C. **Talks Too Much.** General Nelson A. Miles of the United States army, whom it will be remembered Secretary Lamont dubbed "a newspaper soldier," has been severely censured of late for the following utterance which appeared in one of the Eastern newspapers recently in regard to a probable war with England, for which utterance no doubt the administration has been seriously considering his removal. He said: "I have returned from an inspection tour of the southern coast and, like those of other sections of the country, I find them in an entirely defenseless condition. If we should break out at present all we have in the South, or in fact, anywhere else, with a few exceptions, will be a lot of obsolete guns on rotten carriages, which would fall over before they could be of any service. The country is in a deplorable condition for defense. There are only three modern guns in position in this country. Two of these are at the entrance to New York harbor and the third at San Francisco. If congress will make a liberal appropriation therefor the coast could be put in condition for defense in about two years. The work would cost about \$80,000,000. It would take in the neighborhood of a year to manufacture the tools necessary for the construction of the guns, and another year for the manufacture of the guns themselves." **THE MIST and Oregonian one year for \$2.00 in advance.**

PIONEER TEMPERANCE.

Liquor Sold to Indians Causes War in Early Times.

An account of this affair was written some years ago. We were young then, but now write entirely from memory. We may have forgotten some of the circumstances, but enough remains to make a good temperance story, and otherwise it shows what men can and will do when arbitration fails to give relief. In 1846 there were two men, one by the name of Geo. Geer and the other Wm. McGurragal, selling whisky ("blue ruin" as it was then called) to Indians at Astoria. The Indians then were very numerous on the north side of the river, and they would come over to Astoria and get drunk and remain so for a week or more. While in that condition they would threaten to kill all the white people. At that time there was not more than ten or a dozen people (grown people) living in Astoria, perhaps not more than forty men in the county. The citizens told these men they must desist and not sell to Indians. The furs of the country were very plentiful. The men said they would continue to sell no matter what the consequences were. Finally a complaint was made to the county officers. Joseph Caples was sheriff, Clatsop Smith (his initials we do not remember) was probate judge, and W. H. Gray was county auditor, all appointed by Gov. Geo. Abernathy. The sheriff called on the two men and told them they must not at the peril of their liberty, sell any more whisky to Indians. At once they became angry and said they would not, and no one dare attempt to prevent it, and if they did their life was in danger. This only made the people more determined to stop it. However they were afraid the men would get the Indians to protect them, in fact the Indians said they would defend them. The entire community was thoroughly aroused and determined to arrest the men and destroy the business. So early in February, 1847, the sheriff called out the militia, at least 30 men and one boy (myself, 13 years old). Two boats full of men went from Clatsop plains and one from Westport and arrived in Astoria early in the day. Some of the men got out of the boats and went over the hills to town. All were well armed and prepared for war if it must come, and the house in which the mischief sprang was quickly surrounded. Indians and all, perhaps a hundred. Geo. Geer was arrested and disarmed. Wm. McGurragal ran to the river and attempted to make his escape to Chinook, across the river. The sheriff sent a boat after him and he was caught half a mile from shore. A heavy wind prevailed at the time and his boat swamped and he was thrown into the water and half drowned. Though before he would surrender he attempted to upset the other boat, and said he would drown all the s---s---. One man took up an oar while he was in the water trying to upset the boat and told him if he did not stop he would break his head. He then gave up and was pulled aboard half drowned, then tied (we had no handcuffs then) and brought ashore to the saloon. Then the work of temperance commenced in good earnest. All the barrels and bottles were brought out, the corks removed, and the contents mingled with the broad Columbia, to the great disgust of all the Indians, who attempted to dip up the whisky but were not permitted to do so in the least. The house was located about where Kinney's cannery is now located. I think Col. James Taylor assisted in the good temperance cause at the time old Col. McClure was not favorable to it. He then lived with a cluchman, and was fond of a dram. The nuisance was then abated and all was quiet, and the small brave army was disbanded, each one going to his home much relieved, and hoped for the better, which speedily came. The two men were taken over to Clatsop plains, before Judge Smith, and tried, convicted, and sentenced to one month in prison, which confinement consisted of being tied and guarded. Their business being destroyed, and being convinced that the people would, under no circumstance, allow them or others to sell spirits to the Indians, they became thoroughly penitent, and agreed if the authorities would release them they would leave the country at once and remain away. So they were released, and were honorable enough to do as they agreed to, and so ended the episode friendly and pleasantly. C. G. C. **Real Estate Transfers.** John Frantz and wife to Dora F. Clark and husband, 10 acres in A. Brylies donation claim; \$1. G. W. Mayger et al, to George Hayes, 1/4 of ne 1/4 of sec 25, t 8 n, r 4 w; \$125. W. H. Palmer and wife to R. W. McNutt 10 acres in sec 8, t 4 n, r 4 w, quitclaim; \$100. W. P. Slaughter et al, to George Hayes, 5/8 of ne 1/4 of ne 1/4, sec 25, t 8 n, r 4 w; \$125. State of Oregon to B. F. Giltner, lot 8 sec 9, lots 9 and 10 sec 16, lot 4 sec 19, and lot 8 of 1/2 sec 20, t 4 n, r 7 w; \$255. Thos. H. Braden to F. W. Shoemaker, lot 10, blk 12, and lot 7, blk 5, Vernonia; \$60. A. Neer and wife to Mary E. Neer, lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, blk 13, Neer City, quitclaim; \$100. A. Neer and wife to Catherine I. Neer, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, blk 13, Neer City, quitclaim; \$100. A. Neer and wife to Ethel L. Neer, lots 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12, blk 24, Neer City; quitclaim; \$100. A. Neer and wife to Hazel B. Neer, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, blk 10, Neer City, quitclaim; \$100. United States to Robert Stewart and wife, 1/4 of ne 1/4, sec 8, t 8 n, r 4 w; and lot 5, sec 34, tp 8 n, r 4 w, west, 319 acres; patent.

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THERE strayed from my place about a month ago three 2-year-old heifers, one red and white, one white and black and one black, the red and white one has a bell on; also one 2-year-old black heifer. Any information will be rewarded by JOSEPH DE FOST, Valley Postoffice, Oregon.

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